

INDIVIDUALS CONTRIBUTING
TO NOMINATION

DRAWER 9 CANDIDATE & CONVENTION 1860

71.2004 DEC 04007

Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

Individuals Contributing to Nomination

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Commercial Register

Published Daily, Tri-Weekly & Weekly
BY HENRY D. COOKE AND C. C. BILL.

SANDUSKY, OHIO,

SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 6, 1858.

Lincoln for President.

We are indebted to a friend at Mansfield for the following special dispatch :

"MANSFIELD, Nov. 5th, 1858.

"EDITOR SANDUSKY REGISTER :—An enthusiastic meeting is in progress here to-night in favor of Lincoln for the next Republican candidate for President.
REPORTER."

The Result in Michigan.

We are ashamed of the work of the Republicans of Michigan, and we believe they are by this time ashamed of it themselves. They were able to have done better than they did at the late election. They have only a majority of from 6,000 to 10,000 on the State ticket.— This majority should have been from 15,000 to 20,000. The Republicans of Michigan, had they only disregarded the storm and gone to the polls, could have made this record without doubt. No man, who calls himself a freeman, should let any cause that does not present an insuperable obstacle deter him from the performance of such an important duty as voting, especially when issues are as vital as those taken by the parties on Tuesday last.

The conduct of Republicans in the 1st Congressional District is particularly censurable. By petty dissensions they fritted away their strength, and lost to the Republican forces in Congress one of their strongest coadjutors— Wm. A. Howard—giving his seat to a man en-

The Congress

In the elections of Tuesday last, twenty-eight Republicans were chosen. The results are as follows :

In New York, the four members, the Republicans carrying the other subjoined list :

Democrats in SMALL C

*denote

Dist.

- 1 Luther C Carter
- 2 James Humphrey
- 3 D E SICKLES* (cont)
- 4 THOMAS J BARR
- 5 WM B MACLAY*
- 6 JOHN GOCHRANE*
- 7 George Briggs
- 8 Horace F Clark*
- 9 J B Haskin* (d'bt)
- 10 Chas H Van Wyck
- 11 E P Strong
- 12 O L Beale
- 13 Abram B Olin*
- 14 John H Reynolds
- 15 James B McKean
- 16 G W Palmer*
- 17 F E Spinner*

The New York Times says that in the Th reported that Sickl jority over Walbri Williamson, the U ed by Mr. Willi plurality of vot of the latter wi

Massachuset can delegation

Dists.

- 1st. Thor
- 2d. Jam
- 3d. Cha
- 4th. Ale
- 5th. As
- 6th. Jo

*First Public Announcement
of Lincoln As Candidate for
the Presidency*

A Matter of History.

In the sketch of the life of the late Hon. Leonard Swett sent out by the Associated Press it is stated that he "made the nominating speech for Abraham Lincoln for President at the Chicago Convention in 1860." The *Chicago Inter Ocean* says that he "seconded the nomination in a speech which was not the least of the influences that brought about the desired result;" and several other papers credit him with effective oratorical work on that memorable occasion. As a matter of fact, Mr. Swett was not even a member of said Convention. He was present in the Lincoln lobby, and rendered good service, though there were other older and more experienced Illinois politicians who did better work outside as well as inside of the Convention. There were no nominating speeches made for any of the candidates. Mr. Seward was first put in nomination by Mr. Evarts in the shortest effort of his life—a single sentence of four lines. Then Hon. Norman B. Judd, of Chicago, afterwards Minister to Germany, arose and said: "I desire, on behalf of the delegation from Illinois, to put in nomination as a candidate for President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois." And that was all, except the great shout that greeted the name of the man who was destined to secure the coveted honor.

The names of the other candidates—Dayton, Cameron, Chase, Bates, and McLean, in the order here named—were presented in the same brief way. Indiana was the first State to second Mr. Lincoln's nomination, through Caleb B. Smith, who subsequently became Secretary of the Interior. The Seward nomination was seconded by Carl Schurz for Wisconsin, John W. North for Minnesota, Austin Blair for Michigan, and Wm. A. Phillips for Kansas, all of whom merely stated the fact of their preference. Next Columbus Delano said: "I rise on behalf of a portion of the delegation from Ohio to put in nomination the man who can split rails and maul Democrats—Abraham Lincoln." Then Wm. M. Stone seconded the Lincoln nomination "in the name of two-thirds of the delegation from Iowa;" and then, on motion of John A. Andrew, of Massachusetts, the Convention proceeded to vote. That was the extent of the speech-making until, on the third ballot, Mr. Lincoln's nomination was assured, and different States hastened to change their votes from other candidates to him, giving him 264 out of 466. As soon as the result was announced by the Chair, Mr. Evarts took the stand, and in tremulous tones and with tears in his eyes, paid a short but very impressive tribute to Mr. Seward, closing with a motion to make the nomination unanimous, which was eloquently seconded by Messrs. Andrew, Schurz and Blair. The response on behalf of Illinois was made by Hon. O. H. Browning, who succeeded Douglas in the Senate, and later served as Secretary of the Interior under Johnson. Of all the political conventions in our history, that was the most interesting and important. It stood for the daybreak of a new and splendid epoch; and it gave to the country for a President the greatest man of the

67 6 11 1860

LINCOLN FORGAVE HIM.

One Man Who Got a Pardon Without
Even Asking For It.

Among the innumerable nuisances and "cranks" who called on Lincoln at the White House were many who sought to win favor by showing that they had been the first to suggest his nomination as president. One of these men, says Francis F. Browné in "The Everyday Life of Abraham Lincoln," was the editor of a weekly paper published in a little village in Missouri. He told the president that he was the man who first suggested Lincoln's name for the presidency and, pulling from his pocket an old, worn, defaced copy of his paper, exhibited to the president an item on the subject.

"Do you really think," said Lincoln, "that that was the cause of my nomination?"

"Certainly," said the editor. "The suggestion was so opportune that it was at once taken up by other papers, and you were nominated and elected."

"Ah, well," said Lincoln with a sigh, "I am glad to see you and to know that, but you will have to excuse me. I am just going to the war department to see Mr. Stanton."

"Well," said the editor, "I will walk over with you."

The president, with that good nature so characteristic of him, took up his hat and said, "Come along!"

When they reached the door of the secretary's office Mr. Lincoln turned to his companion and said, "I shall have to see Mr. Stanton alone, and you must excuse me." And then, taking him by the hand, he continued: "Goodby. I hope you will feel perfectly easy about having nominated me; don't be troubled about it; I forgive you."

Another Lincoln Romance.

It is claimed for Thomas H. Dudley, who died at Philadelphia the other day, that he was the prime agent in bringing about the nomination of Lincoln for the Presidency in 1860. He was a delegate from New Jersey, and made the suggestion in a caucus of the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana and Illinois delegations, the story runs, that it should be ascertained which one of the candidates had most strength in the Convention next to Seward, and that he should be supported by said States. The plan was adopted, we are told, and the inquiry showed that Lincoln was the favorite; whereupon Cameron and Dayton were withdrawn and the contest was decided. Thus, it is said, "if it had not been for Mr. Dudley's energy and tact in the caucus of the doubtful States, the nation in the emergency which so soon followed would not have had the service of that great and good man at the helm." This sounds well, and it is a pity to spoil it; but so many claims of that kind have been presented from time to time that they have all come to be viewed with more or less distrust. It is likely that Mr. Dudley contributed something in his way to the success of Lincoln, just as many other individuals did in their several ways; but it is not likely that any one man bore a decisive and surpassing part in the matter. National Conventions are not generally controlled by a single delegate, directly or indirectly; and the one which met at Chicago in 1860 was particularly remarkable for its independence of that sort of influence.

The truth is that it is about time to stop talking of the first nomination of Lincoln as an accident, or as a result attributable to any superficial cause. It was a foregone conclusion from the start. The logic of the situation made the selection inevitable, and the first ballot practically settled it by demonstrating that Seward could not win and that Lincoln could. There was some trading done to concentrate the anti-Seward vote, but Lincoln was manifestly the man upon whom the concentration could most easily be made, and the trading was simply an incident of the irresistible movement that gave him the nomination, and that would have given it to him just the same if no trading had been done. It must be remembered that he was by no means an obscure personage at that time. He had gained a national reputation by his debates with Douglas and his speeches in Ohio, New York and New England. His name was a familiar and popular one throughout the whole country. He was recognized as the foremost representative of that anti-slavery sentiment which had not yet reached the point of abolitionism, and which was potent enough to carry the Western States that were indispensable to victory. It is perhaps too much to say that he was the only man whom the Republicans could have elected in that memorable contest; but certainly he was in all respects the most available man in sight when the nomination was made. The Convention appreciated this fact at a glance. It did not make its choice impulsively or

by chance, but deliberately, knowingly, and with full confidence in the ability and character of the candidate. There was no mystery and no accident, but only the practical working of given forces to a predetermined end, and all stories to the contrary are political fables. GD 4.25.13

Curtin and Lane Did It.

The defeat of Seward and the nomination of Lincoln were brought about by two men—Andrew G. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, and Henry S. Lane of Indiana, an either accident nor intrigue was a material factor in the struggle. They not only defeated Seward in a Seward convention, but they decided the contest in favor of Lincoln against Bates, his only real competitor after Seward. Curtin had been nominated for governor in Pennsylvania and Lane had been nominated for governor in Indiana. The states in



LINCOLN—FROM A PHOTO BY NESLER, 1860.

which their battles were to be fought were the pivotal states of the national contest. It was an absolute necessity that both Pennsylvania and Indiana should elect republican governors in October to secure the election of the republican candidate for President in November. Curtin and Lane were naturally the most interested of all the great host that attended the Chicago convention in 1860. Neither of their states was republican. In Pennsylvania the name of republican could not be adopted by the party that had chosen Curtin for governor.

The call for the convention summoned the opposition to the democratic party to attend the people's state convention and all the shades of antagonism to the administration then in power were invited to cordial and

the republican candidate. On the contrary, both of them were thorough anti-slavery men, and they finally accepted Lincoln with the full knowledge that he was even in advance of Seward in declaring the "irrepressible conflict." Lincoln announced in his memorable Springfield speech, delivered on the 17th of June, 1858, that "a house divided against itself cannot stand; I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free," and Seward's "irrepressible conflict" speech was not delivered until the 25th of October. Lincoln was not only fully abreast with Seward, but in advance of him in forecasting the great battle against slavery.

The single reason that compelled Curtin and Lane to make aggressive resistance to the nomination of Seward was his attitude on the school question, that was very offensive to the many thousands of voters in their respective states, who either adhered to the American organization or cherished its strong prejudices against any division of the school fund. It was Seward's record on that single question, when governor of New York, that made him an impossible candidate for President in 1860, unless he was to be nominated simply to be defeated. Had he been nominated, the American element in Pennsylvania and Indiana would not only have maintained its organization, but it would have largely increased its strength on the direct issue of hostility to Seward. It was not an unreasonable apprehension, therefore, that inspired Curtin and Lane to protest with all earnestness against the nomination of Seward. There could be no question as to the sincerity of the republican candidates for governor in the two pivotal states when they declared that a particular nomination would doom them to defeat, and it was Andrew G. Curtin and Henry S. Lane whose earnest admonitions to the delegates at Chicago compelled a Seward convention to halt in its purpose and set him aside, with all his pre-eminent qualifications and with all the enthusiastic devotion of his party to him.

Many delegates most reluctantly gave up their preference for Seward in obedience to the counsel of these two men from the two



DAVID DAVIS.

who were the "hustlers" of that battle. They had men for sober counsel like David Davis; men of supreme sagacity like Leonard Swett; men of tireless effort like Norman B. Judd, and they had what was more important than all—a seething multitude that was wild with enthusiasm for Abraham Lincoln.

Thurlow Weed Defeated Once.

For once Thurlow Weed was outgeneraled just at a critical stage of the battle. On the morning of the third day, when the final struggle was to be made, the friends of

Seward got up an imposing demonstration on the streets of Chicago. They had bands and banners, immense numbers and generous enthusiasm; but, while the Seward men were thus making a public display of their earnestness and strength, Swett and Judd filled the immense galleries of the wigwam, in which the convention was held, with men who were ready to shout to the echo for Lincoln whenever opportunity offered. The result was that, when the Seward men filed into the convention, there were seats for the delegates, but few for any others, and the convention was encircled by an immense throng that made the wigwam tremble with its cheers for the "rail-splitter."

Twelve names had been put in nomination for President, but the first ballot developed to the comprehension of all that the struggle was between Seward and Lincoln. Seward had received 173½ votes and Lincoln 102. The other votes scattered among ten candidates, the highest of whom (Cameron) received 50½, all of which were from Pennsylvania, with the exception of three. Cameron's name was at once withdrawn, and on the second ballot Seward rose to 184½, with Lincoln closely following at 181, but both lacking the 233 votes necessary to a choice. The third ballot was taken amid breathless excitement, with Lincoln steadily gaining and Seward now and then losing, and when the ballot ended Lincoln had 231½ to 180 for Seward. Lincoln lacked but 2½ votes of a majority. His nomination was now inevitable, and before the result was announced there was a general scramble to change from the candidates on the scattering list to Lincoln. Carter, of Ohio, was the first to obtain recognition, and he changed four Ohio votes from Chase to Lincoln,

sent the situation to him, but he was listless and indifferent, and not one dollar of money was contributed from New York State to aid the Curtin contest in Pennsylvania. The entire contributions for the state committee for that great battle aggregated only \$12,000, of which \$2,000 were a contribution for rent of headquarters and \$3,000 were expended in printing. Three weeks before the election, when I felt reasonably confident of the success of the state ticket, I again visited Governor Morgan and met with him Moses Taylor and one or two others, and they were finally so much impressed with the importance of carrying a republican Congress that they agreed to raise \$4,200 and send it direct to some six or seven debatable congressional districts indicated. Beyond this aid rendered to Pennsylvania from New York the friends of Mr. Seward took no part whatever in the great October battle that made Abraham Lincoln President. Curtin was elected by a majority of 32,164, and Lane was elected in Indiana by 9,757. With Curtin the republicans carried nineteen of the twenty-five congressmen, and with Lane the republicans of Indiana carried seven of the eleven congressmen of that state. Thus was the election of a republican President substantially accomplished in October by the success of the two men who had defeated William H. Seward and nominated Abraham Lincoln at Chicago.

A. K. MCCLURE.

BURTON C. COOK DYING.

Placed Lincoln in Nomination in 1860 and 1864. 1854

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 16.—Burton C. Cook, of national fame in his day; the close friend of Abraham Lincoln, whom he placed in nomination for the Presidency at the Chicago convention in 1860, and at Baltimore in 1864; the father of the public school system of Illinois; one of the pioneers in the anti-slavery movement; a man who has rendered great service to his country and to his kind, is dying at his home in Evanston. He is not expected to survive the night. He has been ill for a month or more, suffering from brain trouble, and his early death is inevitable.

Gathered at his bedside to-day were his children and friends, sorrowing over the approaching end of a life which has been so beneficial to humanity.

For some years Mr. Cook has lived at Evanston, retired from active work in the world. He has always been deeply interested in the events of the times. He was an advanced thinker, and he progressed along the lines of human liberty. He was an abolitionist when opposition to slavery meant social and political ostracism. He advocated free schools when public education had scarcely been thought of by legislators. He was an advocate of the rights of woman long before the female suffrage movement began, and to him the laws on the Illinois statute books protecting the rights of married women owe their origin.

Dr. Webster said this evening that Mr. Cook had been unconscious since Sunday. He had partaken of no nourishment and death was very near.

WHO NOMINATED LINCOLN.

GRAND JUNCTION, Iowa.
A gentleman by the name of Jesse Harper, speaking in the interest of the Greenback party of this State, claims to have nominated Abraham Lincoln in the Chicago convention of 1860. Who did nominate him in that convention? J. M. U.

Answer.—This inquiry takes us back to the great campaign between those wonderful and wonderfully unlike men—Douglas and Lincoln, the giants of the prairies. The Illinois State Convention in 1858 named Abraham Lincoln as the party's candidate for United States Senator. As all the world knows, Douglas was victorious in that struggle. In the result of this contest may be seen the way events were shaping for the National canvass, two years nearer us. In the winter of 1859-60 Republican members of the Legislature held a caucus, and it was proposed to nominate Lincoln for the Vice Presidency, reserving, probably, as a biographer of Mr. Judd suggests, the first place on the ticket for Seward. Mr. Judd insisted that if the name was used in any way it must be at the head of the ticket, and that it was impolitic at that time to make an issue with any of the then avowed candidates. The caucus finally and unanimously concluded not to give Lincoln's name to the public in any way. When the National Republican Committee met in January, 1860, at the Astor House, New York, Mr. Judd was present, and after a sharp contest saw his point made, when, on the nineteenth ballot, Chicago was chosen as the place for holding the convention. New York, through William M. Evarts, nominated Seward, and Illinois, through Norman B. Judd, chairman of its delegation to that convention, named Lincoln. These are some of the facts leading up to the convention of 1860.

Thurlow Weed and Lincoln's Nomination.

[From the Cleveland Leader.]

In the course of his speech at the recent Lincoln dinner given by the Unconditional Club, of Albany, William H. McElroy told the following: 1852

"There is a story in which Mr. Lincoln figures which connects him, although in rather a droll way, with Albany. It was told me by that distinguished Republican, Seward, the son of Mr. Lincoln's great Secretary of State. In 1860, Thurlow Weed, then the editor of the Albany Journal—this is the story—journeyed to the National Republican Convention at Chicago for the purpose of securing the nomination of William H. Seward for the presidency. George Dawson, Mr. Weed's associate in the management of the Journal, accompanied him, so the paper was left in charge of 'Fred' Seward, as he was then called. It was a foregone conclusion to Mr. Weed that Mr. Seward would be nominated. Accordingly, taking time by the forelock, before leaving for Chicago he loaded the lofts of the Journal building with the works, which were to be touched off on the joyful evening of the memorable day of the nomination. The morning when the Convention was to begin balloting Mr. Weed telegraphed Fred from Chicago to hold back the last edition of the paper until he got news of his father's nomination. The leader commending the nomination was in type; the rockets and Roman candles were ready to flood the sky with many-tinted glory; the ticket—'For President, William H. Seward, of New York'—was also in type, and Fred sat serenely in the Journal's sanctum waiting for the formal—but to him rather unnecessary—announcement that the favorite had beaten the field.

"That was the situation when, after the third ballot at Chicago, a telegram was handed Fred announcing that the Republican National Convention had nominated Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois. We may be sure that for a few minutes Fred was a prey to his emotions. He must have felt as if he had been interviewed by a cyclone with a dynamite attachment. But the instinct of the trained journalist soon reasserted itself and he got to work. There was a Seward leader to be killed and a Lincoln leader to be prepared. But, before sitting down to write, he scratched off 'For President, Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois,' and told a messenger to take it to the composing room and explain to the foreman that that was the ticket which was to go to the masthead.

"Presently an excited voice came down the tube connecting the sanctum and the composing room. It was the voice of the paralyzed foreman, himself an admirer of William H. Seward, ordinarily an amiable foreman, but when his temper was ruffled, more emphatic than genteel in the use of the language, which he 'rendered' in nervous, falsetto tones.

"'Hallo, Mr. Seward!' the foreman screamed down the tube.

"'Well, what is it?' said Mr. Seward.

"'With as much indignation as the tube would hold the foreman inquired: 'Say, Mr. Seward, what d—d name is this you want me to have set up for President?'" [Laughter.]

MORTUARY MATTERS.

2^d week of JAN 1854

ELIJAH W. BLAISDELL, 1801

Elijah W. Blaisdell, one of the founders of the republican party and the first editorial writer to mention the name of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency, died yesterday at Rockford, Ill., aged 74 years. He was a native of Montpelier, Vt. His father, a printer, established the Vergennes, Vt., Vermonter, and the son succeeded him as editor. While editing this paper he was appointed postmaster of Vergennes by President Zachary Taylor. Mr. Blaisdell went to Rockford in 1853 and began his career in that city as editor of the Forum, afterward changing the name of his paper to the Republican. He advocated the formation of a party which should stand for the opposition to the extension of slavery, and at a mass meeting of citizens of the congressional district introduced a resolution that "We recommend the formation of a new party to be called republican," which was carried with a shout.

Mr. Blaisdell attended the meeting in Bloomington May 23, 1856, at which the republican party was organized in Illinois. Abraham Lincoln addressed the convention and Mr. Blaisdell then became convinced that Mr. Lincoln would lead the new party as its candidate for the presidency. The Republican was the first paper to support Mr. Lincoln for the office. In recent years Mr. Blaisdell had given his attention to literary pursuits and was the author of several books. He is survived by a widow and five sons, Elijah Warde Blaisdell, the artist, being

one.

Lincoln and Danenhower.

From the Boston Traveller. 1854

W. W. Danenhower, the father of Lieut. Danenhower, of Arctic fame, who died the other day, up to the day of his death preserved in a little glass-covered frame a brief note, written to him by Lincoln on the day of his first inauguration, March 4, 1861. Danenhower, who was a close friend of Lincoln, had called to see him that morning and had been refused admittance. The President, hearing of it, in spite of his many cares took time to pen a note of apology, telling his friend not to think he was "putting on airs" because he was "in the White House," and asking him to call again and he would see that he was admitted. Danenhower, according to the Philadelphia "Record," was the first to announce to Lincoln the decision of the National Convention Committee of Conference to recommend Lincoln to the National Convention. Lincoln's look of surprise, he said, was genuine. He laughed a deep inward ripple, and, dropping his hands and removing his legs from a table before which he was seated, he arose and paced the room, saying: "Why, Danenhower, this shows how political parties are degenerating. You and I can remember when we thought no one was fit for the presidency but Harry Clay. Now you are seriously considering me for the position. It's absurd."

1860 News

SOME NEW LINCOLN HISTORY.

Survivor of Convention Tells How
Martyred President Was Nominated.

CHICAGO, February 14.—Lincoln day at the Hamilton Club took on a distinction yesterday that no other meeting of the same nature can lay claim to—an address by the only survivor of the national convention in Chicago which nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency—Adison G. Proctor, of St. Joseph, Mich.

Incidentally the members of the club learned for the first time, perhaps, that Lincoln's nomination was brought about by a southerner who pleaded before a caucus in the old Briggs house to name Lincoln and save the nation.

His plea was of such earnest character, said Mr. Proctor, that it fostered a movement which overcame the strength of William H. Seward, of New York, and gave the honor to Lincoln on the third ballot by a unanimous vote.

"Had it not been for Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky," said Mr. Proctor, "and the little band of determined mountaineers for whom Clay spoke in convention, Abraham Lincoln probably would never have been nominated."

Mr. Proctor then told how Horace Greeley, leader of the Seward forces, opposed Lincoln because of his lack of experience in public affairs, and then related how Clay's entree shattered the Greeley-Seward hopes and led to the nomination.

Mr. Proctor was twenty-one years old at the time of the convention, and from his early youth had been identified with the anti-slavery movement in Kansas. He was attached to the abolitionist propaganda headed by John Brown until the latter's death.

W. J. J.

HIS VOTE TURNED TIDE TO LINCOLN

DEATH MARKS PASSING OF ONCE
NOTED POLITICAL CHAR-
ACTER.

New York, Aug. 10.—The death to-day at Mount Vernon of John B. Allen marked the passing of one of the noted political characters of his day. He played an unusual part in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for President in breaking away from the New York delegation, casting a single vote for Lincoln and turning the tide toward the man later to be assassinated.

1910

KENTUCKIAN FORCED FIRST NOMINATION OF LINCOLN

**"Give Us Lincoln and We Will Push Battle Line to
Tennessee," Declared Clay on Eve of Convention.**

CHICAGO, Feb 13—New, and what are believed to be hitherto unpublished, incidents concerning the politics which gave Abraham Lincoln the republican nomination for President the first time were told here today in an address before the Hamilton club by Addison G. Proctor of St Joseph, Mich, who believes himself the only surviving member of the famous "split rail" convention.

Mr Proctor gives one man, Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, the credit for forcing the nomination of Lincoln from a chaotic disorganized opposition to the regular candidate for the nomination. William H. Seward of New York.

This is how Clay's influence was exerted, as related by Mr Proctor: "When the convention opened Mr Seward's interests were in the hands of Thurlow Weed, and were well organized. The opposition, of which Horace Greeley was the dominant figure, was absolutely without organization or community of desire."

"To show how much without aim we were working, I recall that Mr Greeley said to us within 30 hours of the time for balloting, answering a question as to whom we should unite upon to oppose Seward, 'I think well of Edward Bates of Missouri; he is a strong man, and I believe one of the best we could nominate.'"

"How about Lincoln?" we asked, and Greeley replied:

"While Mr Lincoln is an adroit politician, he lacks experience in public affairs, and while we are drifting toward a crisis, I do not believe the country will trust a man so lacking in experience in national affairs."

"We were discussing matters in the old Briggs house in Chicago when Mr Clay and his mountain men from western Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky arrived. Clay was a man of most interesting personality and he headed an interesting group."

"We are on the eve of a great civil war," began Mr Clay, but we of Kansas were used to strong words and smiled. The mountaineer looked at us sternly and continued:

"We know what your platform plans are, and I am here to say that if a candidate is nominated on that platform the south will make an attempt to dissolve the union. Your southern border extends from Maryland to Missouri, and on this side stands a determined body of men, resolute that the union shall not be destroyed except after a most desperate struggle."

"It makes a great difference to you whom you nominate," thundered on the tall Kentuckian, "and it makes a much more vital difference to us. Our homes and all we possess are in peril. We demand of you a candidate who will inspire our courage and confidence."

"We call upon you to nominate Abraham Lincoln, who knows us and understands our aspirations. Give us Lincoln and we will push back your battle line from the Ohio river to the Tennessee, where it belongs. Give us Lincoln and we will unite the strength of our union sentiment with the union army and bring success to your legions. Do this for us," pleaded the speaker, "and we will go home and prepare for the conflict."

"We saw things from a new angle. It was no longer a question of fighting slavery, but of saving the union. Lincoln was nominated."

The First Nomination of Lincoln

The Republican convention was to meet at Chicago on the sixteenth of May [1860], but delegates began to arrive and headquarters were opened some days before that date. Who would be the nominee was the one topic of their conversation. Men from New York were sure he would be Seward. Delegates from Indiana declared his nomination would, in their State, send forty thousand votes to Bell; those from Illinois were bitter against him, and those from Pennsylvania and New Jersey protested that he could not carry their states. Horace Greeley, who came as a delegate from Oregon, wrote home that the order of preference was Seward, Bates of Missouri, Chase, Cameron of Pennsylvania, and Lincoln, urged by Illinois as a compromise. Attempts were made to unite the opposition to Seward on Bates; but Lincoln gained so rapidly that before the convention opened he became the strongest opponent of Seward in the field. Never had the city seen such a throng as had gathered by the evening of the day before the convention was to open. Some said thirty thousand, some forty thousand strangers were in town. Those who witnessed the scenes described the crowd as prodigious, as mighty and overwhelming, and the press about the hotels and in them crushing. Seward had, it was said, a thousand followers, each with a long silk badge adorned with a portrait of "Old Irrepressible," and a gorgeously uniformed band behind which they marched each day to the place of meeting. This was the Wigwam, a huge board structure put up for the use of the convention by the Republicans of Chicago, and containing ten thousand seats.

Thither on the morning of the sixteenth went the crowd to fill the seats and stand by thousands in the street before the building. David Wilmot was made temporary chairman, and at the afternoon session George Ashmun was made president, and a committee on resolutions chosen.

The platform was long. It declared for a railroad to the Pacific; appropriations by Congress for river and harbor improvements; a homestead act;

no change in the naturalization laws; a protective tariff; immediate admission of Kansas under the Wyandotte constitution; denounced popular sovereignty as a fraud; branded the recent reopening of the African slave trade as a crime against humanity; denied the authority of Congress, a territory, or any individual to give legal existence to slavery in any territory. The principles of the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, have an inalienable right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, and that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, were affirmed; disunion was "held in abhorrence"; the lawless invasion by armed forces of the soil of any state or territory, no matter what the pretext, was declared "among the greatest crimes," and the right of every state to regulate its own domestic institutions in its own way was held to be essential to the maintenance of that balance of power on which the endurance of our political fabric depends. Not a word was said about the Dred Scott decision, the Fugitive Slave Law, or the personal liberty laws so bitterly denounced by the Democrats.

Balloting began on the third day. Up to that time the success of Seward seemed assured, but the first ballot showed that, with the anti-Seward states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Missouri voting each for a favorite son, Lincoln was but seventy-one and one-half votes behind Seward. New York cast seventy votes for Seward. Outside of that State the two rivals were almost exactly equal. If the great anti-Seward states would unite on Lincoln he would be chosen. On the second ballot Vermont changed to Lincoln, forty-four votes came over to him from Pennsylvania, some smaller states followed the example, and Lincoln was three and one-half votes behind Seward. When the roll of the states was called for the third time Lincoln was fifty-one and one-half ahead of Seward, and lacked but one and one-half of the number necessary to a choice. In dead silence the convention waited to see what state would change her vote and give him the nomination. As quickly as possible a member from Ohio mounted upon his chair and said, "I rise, Mr. Chairman, to announce the change of four votes of Ohio from Mr. Chase to Mr. Lincoln." Then went up a shout that shook the Wigwam, was taken up by the crowd without, and made it impossible to hear the discharge of cannon on the roof which announced to the city that a nomination had been made. In the afternoon Hannibal Hamlin of Maine was chosen as the vice-presidential candidate.

As the telegraph spread the news eastward salutes of a hundred guns were fired at Detroit, Buffalo, Rochester, Ithaca, New Haven, Boston, Portland, Bangor. At Albany the news was disbelieved, but when confirmed State Street was a line of burning tar barrels.—From "A History of the United States From the Revolution to the Civil War," by John Bach McMaster.

HOW LINCOLN WON FIRST NOMINATION

Forced by Cassius M. Clay, Says
Addison G. Proctor, to Give
Courage to Border States.

NOT FAVORED BY GREELEY

Editor Thought Edward Bates of Mis-
souri the Stronger Man—Proctor
Last of Delegates.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—New and what are believed to be, hitherto unpublished incidents concerning the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for President the first time were told here to-day in an address before the Hamilton Club by Addison G. Proctor of St. Joseph, Mich., who believes himself the only surviving member of the famous "split rail" convention.

Mr. Proctor gave to one man, Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, the credit for forcing the nomination of Lincoln out of a chaotic, disorganized opposition to the regular candidate for the nomination, William H. Seward of New York. This is how Clay's influence was exerted, as related by Mr. Proctor:

"When the convention opened, Mr. Seward's interests were in the hands of Thurlow Weed, and were well organized. The opposition, of which Horace Greeley was the dominant figure, was absolutely without organization or community of desire. To show how much without aim we were working, I recall that Mr. Greeley said to us within thirty hours of the time for balloting, answering a question as to whom we should unite upon to oppose Seward:

"I think well of Edward Bates of Missouri; he is a strong man, and I believe one of the best we could nominate."

"How about Lincoln?" we asked, and Greeley replied:

"While Mr. Lincoln is an adroit politician, he lacks experience in public affairs, and while we are drifting toward a crisis, I do not believe the country will trust a man so lacking in experience in National affairs."

"We were discussing matters in the old Briggs House in Chicago when Mr. Clay and his mountain men from Western Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky arrived. Clay was a man of most interesting personality, and he headed an interesting group."

"We are on the eve of a great civil war," began Mr. Clay, but we of Kansas were used to strong words and smiled. The mountaineer looked at us sternly and continued:

"We know what your platform plans are, and I am here to say that if a candidate is nominated on that platform, the South will make an attempt to dissolve the Union. Your southern border extends from Maryland to Missouri, and on this side stands a determined body of men, resolute that the Union shall not be destroyed except after a most desperate struggle."

"It makes a great difference to you whom you nominate," thundered on the tall Kentuckian, "and it makes a much more vital difference to us. Our homes and all we possess are in peril. We demand of you a candidate who will inspire our courage and confidence."

"We call upon you to nominate Abraham Lincoln, who knows us and understands our aspirations. Give us Lincoln, and we will push back your battle line from the Ohio River to the Tennessee, where it belongs. Give us Lincoln, and we will unite the strength of our Union sentiment with the Union army and bring success to your legions. Do this for us," pleaded the speaker, "and we will go home and prepare for the conflict."

"We saw things from a new angle. It was no longer a question of fighting slavery, but of saving the Union. Lincoln was nominated."

MANSFIELD, Ohio, Feb. 13.—Another Lincoln is the need of the country to-day, declared Judge Peter Grosscup of Chicago in an address here to-night. He was the principal speaker at a celebration held in memory of a meeting here in 1858 in which, for the first time, Lincoln was named for the Presidency of the United States.

"The times, it seems to me," said the speaker, "await another Lincoln—a second culminating period in our history that recognizes commercial and industrial concentration as an indispensable part of society, leaves the fullest room, even there, for that universal individual ambition to individually achieve without which the individual is nothing."

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13.—A tribute to Abraham Lincoln was paid in addresses made here to-day at the closing session of the nineteenth annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society. Many prominent students of Hebrew history from New York, Boston, Baltimore, and other cities attended the meeting. All the officers of the society were unanimously re-elected this afternoon.

PASTOR A FRIEND OF LINCOLN.

The Rev. Dr. Johnson Tells His Recollections of the President.

The Rev. Dr. W. J. Johnson, formerly of Springfield, Ill., who knew Abraham Lincoln as a friend, was the principal speaker last night at a Lincoln dinner given at the West End Presbyterian Church, 165th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

This letter, addressed to A. L. Merritt, of the Dinner Committee, from Robert T. Lincoln, was read by Dr. Johnson:

"I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter advising me of the Lincoln dinner to be given at the church on Monday, Feb. 13. I wish it were possible for me to express the gratification which meetings of this character give me, evidencing as they do the esteem in which the life and public service of my father are held by his countrymen after the lapse of so many years. I thank you for your kind expressions, and beg you to communicate to the meeting my best wishes."

1911
CONGR

Lincoln for President in 1858.

66 Vol 2 - 5 1912
The Olney Times during the 50s was a Republican newspaper, edited by a Mr. Beck. On Sunday afternoon, in 1858, Mr. Beck called on a friend, Mr. Jacob Fahs, of East Olney, and during the course of the conversation that followed Mr. Beck turned to Mr. Fahs' daughter Elizabeth and asked, "Who do you think would make a good President?"

Without a moment's hesitation she replied, "Abraham Lincoln of Illinois!"

After a moment of thoughtfulness, Mr. Beck asked, "And *why* do you think Mr. Lincoln would make a good President?"

"Because he is a man who would do right," replied Miss Fahs. Mr. Beck dropped his head for a moment in silence and then said, "I do not know of any better reason why any man should be President."

With the following issue of the Times Mr. Beck placed the name of Abraham Lincoln in large headlines for President of the United States and kept it there till Mr. Lincoln's election and to the day of his death made the assertion that his was the first paper to advocate Mr. Lincoln for President. Miss Fahs still lives in the old homestead and is one of the noblest of women, respected by all. An ardent Prohibitionist and is one of the most faithful White-ribboners under the folds of the stars and stripes.

A LOVING FRIEND.

Bloomington Man Suggested That Lincoln Become Presidential Candidate

BY CLARA BELL SAUERWEIN

There are persons who believe in the opportune season, the man of the hour and that a wise Providence brings these two together. But these persons scarcely may have stopped to consider that there must be human instrumentality.

Abraham Lincoln was that man of the hour, that one man fitted for high office in the most trying time of the nation's history. But Lincoln did not come out of oblivion alone.

It was a Bloomington man of large influence in political affairs who believed Lincoln to be the best man the republican party could back up for president in the political campaign of 1860. Jesse Fell, one of Bloomington's honored residents and a notable character in state history, was central committeeman at the time. At the instigation of Mr. Fell, Abraham Lincoln consented to become a candidate for the presidential nomination.

When I talked with the Misses Aliee and Fannie Fell of Normal, the suburb which owes its existence to the progressiveness of their father, they graciously let me ask any questions I wished to.

"My father was such a busy man," said Miss Fannie Fell, "that he had little time for reminiscing."

"But surely you can tell me something about your father's associations with Lincoln," I urged.

It was an interesting little story they told me first one, then the other recalling some incident. We got away from our subject, now and then and talked of things we had heard about and things they knew had, in the years gone by, loosened up the knotty places in our state's history.

As they talked to me I could see Lincoln, the circuit rider, coming to Bloomington to try cases at law, and wind blown and mud spattered coming into Mr. Fell's law office. It was in this office that Mr. Lincoln made his "debut" into national politics. And I could imagine how Lincoln's grave eyes must have opened wide when Mr. Fell said something like this: "How would you"—with emphasis on the "you"—"like to be president of the United States?" And I could only imagine that the humble Lincoln, with

so little prestige, was amazed at the question.

Mr. Fell saw in the young man Lincoln great possibilities. He too had been thrilled by the famous "Lost Speech" around which so many stories had wound themselves, stories familiar to all Bloomingtonians. It was at the anti-Nebraska convention that Mr. Fell became convinced of Lincoln's possibilities.

But Mr. Lincoln hesitated and pondered the matter and here again is the oft repeated assertion that Mr. Lincoln did not seek the honor, it was thrust upon him.

Finally Mr. Lincoln consented to do as his friend advised. But the east did not know Lincoln and the east was the seat of political power. Pennsylvania was the pivotal state in political influence at that time and it was necessary that Pennsylvania stand by Lincoln.

Mr. Fell even in his keen interest in the young lawyer believed it would be difficult to draw Mr. Lincoln into the political ring of the east without written evidence of the ability of the man. So at the suggestion of Mr. Fell, Lincoln wrote his autobiography.

In the historical library at the court hangs a facsimile of Lincoln's life history written in the brief, quaint style that stamped Lincoln's individuality. Another facsimile has become a treasure in the Fell home.

The story goes that Mr. Lincoln wrote his autobiography in Mr. Fell's law office, laid the manuscript on the desk and the plans for the campaign were left in Mr. Fell's care. And Mr. Fell proved a good manager.

The thing of interest lies in the fact that Mr. Fell took the autobiography to Philadelphia and that eastern politicians looked favorably upon the western candidate. The incident was a triumph for Mr. Fell as well as for Lincoln himself. To Mr. Fell's memory is due the credit of having found the right man for the right place at the time. How Mr. Fell interceded for his friend is another story but the fact that Pennsylvania "went strong" for Lincoln and that he became president through the efforts of a Bloomington man has been written into history.



¹⁸²¹
R. J. W. FELL, a politician of Pennsylvania, says that after the debates of 1858 (with Douglas) he urged Lincoln to seek the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1860. Lincoln, however, replied curtly that men like Seward and Chase were entitled to take precedence, and that no such "good luck" was in store for him. * * * In the winter of 1859-60 sundry "intimate friends," active politicians of Illinois, pressed him to consent to be mentioned as a candidate. He considered the matter over night and then gave them the desired permission, at the same time saying that he would not accept the Vice Presidency. * * *

With the opening of the spring of 1860 the several parties began the campaign in earnest. The Democratic convention met first, at Charleston, April 23; and immediately the line of disruption opened. Upon the one side stood Douglas, with the moderate men and nearly all the Northern delegates, while against him were the advocates of extreme Southern doctrines, supported by the administration and by most of the delegates from the "Cotton States." The majority of the committee appointed to draft the platform were anti-Douglas men; but their report was rejected, and that offered by the pro-Douglas minority was substituted, 165 yeas to 138 nays. Thereupon the delegations of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Texas, and sundry delegates from other states, withdrew from the convention, taking away 45 votes out of a total of 303. Those who remained declared the vote of two-thirds of a full convention, i. e., 202 votes, to be necessary for a choice. Then during three days 57 ballots were cast, Douglas being always far in the lead, but never polling more than 152½ votes. At

last, on May 3, an adjournment was had until June 18, at Baltimore.

At this second meeting contesting delegations appeared, and the decisions were uniformly in favor of the Douglas men, which provoked another secession of the extremist Southern men. A ballot showed 173½ votes for Douglas out of a total of 191½; the total was less than two-thirds of the original convention, and therefore it was decided that any person receiving two-thirds of the votes cast by the delegates present should be deemed the nominee. The next ballot gave Douglas 181½. Herschel V. Johnson, of Georgia, was nominated for Vice President. On June 28, also at Baltimore (after a meeting and adjournment from Richmond, June 11) there came together a collection composed of original seceders at Charleston, and of some who had been rejected and others who had seceded at Baltimore. Very few Northern men were present, and the body in fact represented the Southern wing of the Democracy. Having, like its competitor, the merit of knowing its own mind, it promptly nominated John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, and Joseph Lane, of Oregon, and adopted the radical platform which had been reported at Charleston. These doings opened, so that it could never be closed, that seam of which the thread had long been visible athwart the surface of the old Democratic party. * * *

In May the convention of the Constitutional Union party met, also at Baltimore. This organization was a sudden outgrowth designed only to meet the present emergency. * * * The party died, of necessity, upon the day when Lincoln was elected, and its members were then distributed between the Republicans, the Secessionists and the Copperheads. John Bell, of Tennessee, the candidate for the Presidency, joined the Confederacy; Edward Everett, of Massachusetts, the candidate for the Vice Presidency, became a Republican.

The party never had a hope of electing its men; but its existence increased the chance of throwing the election into Congress; and this hope inspired exertions far beyond what its own prospects warranted.

On May 16 the Republican convention came together at Chicago, where the great "Wigwag" had been built to hold 10,000 persons. * * * Many candidates were named, chiefly Seward, Lincoln, Chase, Cameron, Edward Bates, of Missouri, and William L. Dayton, of New Jersey. Thurlow Weed was Seward's lieutenant. Horace Greeley, chiefly bent upon the defeat of Seward, would have liked to achieve it by the success of Bates. David Davis, aided by Judge Logan and a band of personal friends from Illinois, was manager for Lincoln. Primarily the contest lay between Seward and Lincoln. * * * Upon the third ballot * * * those who were keeping the tally saw that it stood: Seward, 180; Lincoln, 231½; Chase, 24½; Bates, 22; Dayton, 1; McLean, 5; scattering, 1. * * * Before the count could be announced, a delegate from Ohio transferred four votes to Lincoln. This settled the matter; and then other delegations followed, till Lincoln's score rose to 354. * * * Later in the day the convention nominated Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, on the second ballot, by 367 votes, for the Vice Presidency. * * * Almost from the beginning it was highly probable that the Republicans would win, and it was substantially certain that none of their competitors could do so.—J. T. MORSE, Jr.

* * * * *

At the popular election, the votes were: Lincoln, 1,866,452; Douglas, 1,375,157; Breckenridge, 847,953; Bell, 590,631. In the electoral college the four candidates were voted for as follows: Lincoln, 180; Breckenridge, 72; Bell, 39; Douglas, 12.—E. STANWOOD.

*Readings from American History
by John T. Adams*

How Lincoln Won Nomination Told by Last Living Delegate

"Pretty Adroit Politician, but Inexperienced in Public Affairs," Was View Held by Horace Greeley as Easterners Urged Naming of Seward

CHICAGO, Feb. 12 (By The Associated Press).—Observing the 114th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, Addison G. Procter, said to be the only living delegate to the Chicago convention that nominated Lincoln for President, told in a speech to-day of the influences behind the scenes that led to the choice of the "Great Emancipator."

"The 456 delegates to that convention in 1860 met in reality to decide whether slavery should exist or not," he said. "The fugitive slave law had outraged the moral sensibilities of the North."

"After a 'no slavery' plank had been inserted in the platform a strong delegation from the East asked the nomination of William H. Seward. They lacked but fifty votes of controlling the convention. Illinois asked the nomination of Lincoln."

"One of the leaders of the Easterners interviewed us and urged the nomination of Seward. Horace Greeley, however, predicted that Seward would fail to carry five states and possibly more. Speaking of Lincoln, Greeley

said: 'He is a pretty adroit politician, but he is certainly inexperienced in national affairs and I don't believe the people would trust him.' Cassius Clay, of the Kentucky delegation, told us we were on the brink of civil war, and that if Lincoln were elected 'the South will withdraw from the Union, and we, the Unionists, will help push secession back into its lair.'

"Lincoln was nominated despite the Seward delegates, and Senator Seward was one of the first to volunteer to take the platform in favor of Lincoln. I saw him as he was inaugurated before 20,000 persons. He then promised to enforce the laws in all states, and when the flag fell at Fort Sumter the people were of one heart. Seventy-five thousand volunteered after the first call. 'We are coming, Father Abraham, 300,000 strong' was the answer to his second call."

Elwin A. Munger, master in chancery, and another speaker declared that "Lincoln lived as Moses lived, to lead his people through all of their trials to within sight of the promised land of a reunited people, a great and homogeneous nation."



LINCOLN NOMI-
NATOR—A. G. Proctor,
86, St. Joseph, Mich., is
believed to be only sur-
vivor of delegates who
chose "Honest Abe" in
the Republican conven-
tion, in Chicago, in 1860.

A. N. WHITELEY, MUNCIE MANUFACTURER, DEAD

Received Credit for Abraham
Lincoln's Nomination.

BROTHER OF REAPER KING

[Special to The Indianapolis News]

MUNCIE, Ind., August 3.—Amos Nelson Whiteley, age eighty-six, retired manufacturer, horseman and philanthropist, who died today at his home here after a illness incidental to old age, was proud of the fact that Abraham Lincoln had introduced him to his cabinet as "the man who is responsible for my nomination."

Mr. Whiteley was an ardent Lincoln supporter and organized a great crowd of "rooters" for Lincoln, who, by remaining up all night outside the Chicago wigwam in which the 1860 Republican convention was held, packed the convention and by means of their noise drowned out the cheers of the Seward enthusiasts and, according to Lincoln, swayed the delegates to the Illinois candidate.

After Lincoln's election Mr. Whiteley visited the White House at the President's invitation and was presented to the cabinet. He also had a personal acquaintance with Presidents Hayes, Garfield, Harrison and McKinley. Although an active Republican Mr. Whiteley never held public office except for a brief time when he served as city councilman in Springfield, O.

Head of Castings Company.

For thirty years previously to 1919, Mr. Whiteley was head of the Whiteley Malleable Castings Company and its subsidiary, the Whiteley Steel Casting Company, which operated a large factory here in Muncie. He then sold his interest to the Muncie Malleable Castings Company. Mr. Whiteley was a brother of William N. Whiteley, of Springfield, O., who was known as the Reaper King, having been the

inventor and manufacturer of the Champion reaper. Amos Whiteley was associated with his brother in the manufacture of reapers at Springfield and for a time in Muncie. A large reaper works, which was built by the two brothers in Muncie in 1892 was burned two years later and was never rebuilt.

In nearly all his business affairs in later years Mr. Whiteley was connected with his sons, Burt, who died in 1917, and Elmer J. Whiteley, who makes his home in Muncie and in California. The son is the only near surviving relative. Mrs. Whiteley died in 1906. Whiteley, a Muncie suburb, was named for the Whiteley family.

Founder of Hospital.

Mr. Whiteley was one of the founders of the Home Hospital here, the city's largest institution of its kind, and maintained at his own expense what is known as the Whiteley ward, to which those who are unable to pay hospital expenses and could not receive hospital care otherwise are admitted without cost. He also engaged in other philanthropic work and was noted for his generosity to worthy causes.

For many years Mr. Whiteley owned and actively managed the Whiteley stock farm, devoted to the raising of harness race horses and from this farm went forth many animals, many of them sons and daughters of Advertiser that won laurels on the Grand circuit and smaller tracks throughout the country.

Mr. Whiteley had been in failing health for two years, but until a few months ago went to his office each day to greet visitors.

Private funeral services will be held in the Whiteley residence here Tuesday afternoon and the body will be taken to Springfield, O., Wednesday for burial.

1925

D 2

LINCOLN BOOM BEGUN BY EDITOR IN APRIL, '59

Dusty Records at Last Reveal Date When Stoddard Proposed His Nomination

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., June 17 (AP).—Had it not been for a young country editor who stumbled upon Attorney Abraham Lincoln early one morning in 1859 reading a letter in a village hotel lobby, there might have been no occasion for President Hoover's trip to Springfield today to re-dedicate the martyred President's tomb.

It was William Stoddard, later secretary to Lincoln, who started the Lincoln presidential boom. He did it single-handed. The correct date was discovered recently after a painstaking search of dusty files in the University of Illinois library here.

Biographers have said the boom started with an editorial in a little Illinois weekly newspaper, published May 4, 1859. Stoddard himself said in his autobiography that the editorial appeared "early in May, 1859." It actually was printed April 20, 1859.

Stoddard was editor of The Central Illinois Gazette, then published in West Urbana.

Scoggs, Dr. John W. Stoddard's partner, and Stoddard had argued for days about whom the paper "would come out for" in the approaching Presidential election. Words became bitter and Stoddard left the office in disgust.

On his way to work the next morning he dropped into the old Doane House, where he saw Lincoln alone, reading a letter. His head tilted back, his eyes closed in meditation.

"The blood went out of his face, leaving it livid, sallow and gloomy as night," Stoddard wrote. "I watched him, struck with sudden astonishment, until the color came back like a swift return of departed life. It was as if a great fire had been kindled in a human lighthouse. All his soul was aflame and his face was but a window. The conviction came flashing into my mind, 'That's the greatest man you ever saw or heard of'."

Stoddard hurried back to Scoggs, overcame his objections, and the editorial of April 20, 1859, suggested Lincoln for President. The issue was given the widest possible circulation; other newspapers took up the cry and the boom spread.

Stoddard was astonished to find himself later receiving full credit for starting the boom. But he could not remember the date he launched it.

REVEAL EDITOR AS REAL LAUNCHER OF LINCOLN "BOOM"

U. of I. Files Show Wm.
Stoddard Proposed
Him for President.

By Gerald Miller.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., June 17.—(P)—
Had it not been for a young country
editor who stumbled upon Attorney
Abraham Lincoln early one morning
in 1859 reading a letter in a village
hotel lobby, there might have been
no occasion for President Hoover's

trip to Springfield today to rededicate
the martyred President's tomb.

It was William Stoddard, later sec-
retary to Lincoln, who started the
Lincoln presidential boom. He did it
single-handed. The correct date was
discovered recently after a painstaking
search of dusty files in the uni-
versity of Illinois library here.

Biographers have said the boom
started with an editorial in a little
Illinois weekly newspaper published
May 4, 1859. Stoddard himself said
in his autobiography that the edi-
torial appeared "early in May, 1859."
It actually was printed April 20, 1859.

Editor of Newspaper.

Stoddard was editor of the Central
Illinois Gazette, then published in
West Urbana. Through a number of
consolidations it later became the
News-Gazette. West Urbana became
Champaign.

Stoddard's partner in ownership of
the Gazette was Dr. John W. Scoggs,
a druggist. The paper was published
in the loft of Scoggs' store.

In those days Lincoln was an at-
torney, riding regularly through West
Urbana on the circuit. A few months
earlier he had been defeated by Ste-
phen A. Douglas in the senatorial

DELEGATE TO LINCOLN CONVENTION DIES HERE

W. T. Kimsey, 93, Stricken
Sunday; Here for 44th
Infantry Reunion

William Thomas Kimsey, 93, of Douglas, Mich., veteran newspaper editor and a delegate to the national Republican convention at Chicago in 1860, at which Abraham Lincoln was nominated for president of the United States, died suddenly at 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning while visiting at the home of his nephew, Thomas W. Stuart at 1434 Stophlet street.

Mr. Kimsey, who came here last week to attend the annual reunion of the famous Forty-fourth Infantry, of which he was a member during the Civil war, was talking with members of the Stuart family when he was suddenly stricken, and died within a few minutes. Dr. Walter Kruse, deputy county coroner, who investigated his death, said Mr. Kimsey died from chronic myocarditis.

Born near Auburn, Mr. Kimsey was widely known during the pioneer days as a newspaper editor, having established the first newspapers at Auburn, Waterloo, Saugatuck, Mich., and Douglas, Mich. He came here last Wednesday, bringing with him the drum which he carried through many famous battles of the Civil war. While at the reunion of the Forty-fourth Infantry he was apparently in the best of health, and with William H. Hannen, who

played a fife with the same regiment, entertained other veterans with the martial music of 1961.

The veteran recalled during the reunion here how he traveled to Chicago in 1860 as a delegate to the Republican convention and how he cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln when Lincoln was nominated on the anti-slavery platform. Mr. Kimsey delighted in reciting to his friends the stirring scenes which preceded and followed Lincoln's nomination.

While residing at Auburn as a youth Mr. Kimsey, with several companions walked the entire distance to Fort Wayne to see their first railroad train, when the Pennsylvania railroad started operations to this city from the east. The pioneer recalled that he and his companions, without food or money, became hungry after the tiring hike from Auburn, and finally secured some food from an aunt of Mr. Kimsey's here before returning to Auburn.

Mr. Kimsey was the oldest veteran present at the reunion of the Forty-fourth infantry. He remained here following the reunion for a visit at the Stuart home, planning to return to Douglass this week. He had been retired from active business life for several years, although he maintained a keen interest in affairs of his community and in national affairs.

Surviving in addition to the nephew here are a step-son, Robert B. Minler of Chicago; two great-grandchildren, and several nephews and nieces. The body was removed to Klaehn & Son's funeral parlors, from where it will be shipped this morning at 9 o'clock to Douglas, Mich.

A Peoria Editor Boosted Lincoln

He Helped Make A President By His Publicity

By ERNEST E. EAST

A Peoria newspaper editor, Thomas Johnson Pickett, was the first political writer in his territory, if not in the state and nation, to see greatness in Abraham Lincoln.

As editor and publisher of the Peoria Republican, a daily, tri-weekly and weekly journal, Editor Pickett in his issue of February 22, 1856, recommended Lincoln for governor of Illinois. When publisher of the Rock Island Register in 1859, Pickett advocated the nomination of Lincoln for president on the republican ticket.

About this time, Pickett wrote to Lincoln asking permission to organize Illinois editors on behalf of the Springfield lawyer to procure his nomination. It was in response to Pickett's communication that Lincoln wrote his now famous letter in which he stated he was not "fit" for the presidency. The original of this letter is owned by Attorney Oliver R. Barrett, a Chicago lawyer, who lived in Peoria for several years.

Long before Lincoln attained national prominence in his debates with Senator Stephen A. Douglas and by his assaults on the extension of slavery, Pickett was grooming the tall lawyer for high office. Years before Lincoln's nomination for the presidency, Pickett printed eulogies of his friend with words which few, if any, employed until after the war president was assassinated.

Brought Lincoln Here

Pickett had several associates in publication of the Peoria Republican from the time of its founding, about June 1, 1850, until January 31, 1857, when he finally severed his connection with the paper. As early as 1852, Editor Pickett was a supporter of Lincoln and the Whig party to which both held allegiance. Lincoln spoke in Peoria in 1852; in 1854, in 1856 and in 1858. Editor Pickett was his chief sponsor here. The Republican party was in process of formation, absorbing in Illinois elements of the Whigs, the Know-Nothings and the anti-slavery democrats. The fusionists, or the "Black Republicans," as the democratic press termed them, found a stout defender and champion in Thomas J. Pickett.

This pioneer on February 22, 1856, under the heading, "For Governor, Abram Lincoln," nominated the Springfield lawyer for party leadership in Illinois. He said of Lincoln, among other things:

"Coming into our state, (to take his own statement) flourishing an ox-gad, he (Lincoln) has gradually won his way up from distinction to distinction."



Thomas Jefferson Pickett, original editorial supporter of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency. He published the Republican in Peoria from 1850 to 1857. To Pickett Lincoln wrote he was not "fit" for the presidency. Photograph furnished by his granddaughter, Miss Harriett Boswell of Paducah, Ky.

editors who in the spring of 1856 participated in a conference at Decatur at which plans for a state convention of Whigs were discussed. Lincoln was the only outsider present. Pickett was selected for membership on the resolutions committee. A state convention of Whigs was called to meet at Bloomington on May 29, 1856.

Radical Speech

It was at Bloomington on May 29 that Lincoln made his famous "Lost Speech." Pickett was present and doubtless took notes on Lincoln's remarks. There is ground for the belief that Lincoln's utterances were so radical that his associates abandoned a plan to print his speech as a campaign document. Although Pickett had printed at length earlier addresses by Lincoln, he limited his report on the Bloomington meeting to a reprint from the Chicago Democratic Press. This Pickett published in the Republican on June 6. Pickett was a member of the state central committee which allotted to Peoria county 5 delegates to the Bloomington meeting.

Pickett attended political meetings in Chicago in July and in December, 1856, at which Lincoln spoke. In September, of the same year, Lincoln came to Peoria to speak at a mass meeting called to advance the cause of John C. Fremont, Whig candidate for president. Speaking at this meeting, Pickett called for three cheers for "Abe Lincoln, the gallant champion of republicanism in this state."

"Ugly and Great"

Lincoln stopped over night in Peoria on his way to Lacon late in September, 1856. Pickett wrote in his newspaper at that time:

"He (Lincoln) seems to be growing younger and taller—and we positively believe it—handsomer. Still, there is vast room for improvement. . . . He is ugly enough still for all practical purposes. But, God bless him! the outer uncouthness of our own great Lincoln is no index of the soul within. . . . He is the Richard Coeur de Lion of the present campaign."

After leaving Peoria newspaperdom, Mr. Pickett went to Pekin and there was engaged for about

two years in publication of the Plaindealer which he re-named the Tazewell Register. In or before 1856 he founded the Register at Rock Island. When there he invited Lincoln to lecture in Rock Island and added:

"I would like to have a talk with you on political matters, as to the policy of announcing your name for the presidency, while you are in the city. My partner and myself are about addressing the republican editors of the state on the subject of a simultaneous announcement of your name for the presidency."

"Not Fit"

Mr. Lincoln, from Springfield, April 16, 1859, made the following reply:

"T. J. Pickett, Esq.:

"My Dear sir: Yours of the 13th is just received. My engagements are such that I cannot, at any very early day, visit Rock Island to deliver a lecture, or for any other object.

"As to the other matter you kindly mention, I must in candor say I do not think myself fit for the presidency. I certainly am flattered and gratified that some partial friends think of me in that connection, but I really think it best for our cause that no concerted effort, such as you suggest, should be made.

"Let this be considered confidential.

"Yours very truly,

"A. Lincoln."

Thomas Johnson Pickett was born in Louisville, Ky., March 17, 1821, and died in Ashland, Neb., December 24, 1891. He came to Peoria with his parents, natives of Lynchburg, Va., in or about 1836. His oldest son, Horace G. Pickett, 90 years old, was living recently in Akron, Ohio. Another son, Thomas J. Pickett, jr., lives in Lincoln, Neb. Two of his daughters, Mrs. R. G. Terrell, and Mrs. Thomas E. Boswell, live in Paducah, Ky. His granddaughter, Harriett Boswell, is librarian of the Carnegie Public Library at Paducah.

Paris seems quite sold on the short jacket for the winter suit. More than half the capes and coats that French creators are showing are short, some waist length only others hip length or three-quarters.

Ch. Trib - Sept. 25-60

Absorbing Account of Lincoln Campaign

By Harry Hansen
New York

MANEUVERS to line up delegates at the political conventions of 1960 did not differ basically from the wire pulling in the Chicago Wigwam in 1860, when the Illinois Republicans were trying to put over a Springfield lawyer named Abraham Lincoln. The practical side of Lincoln in encouraging friends and smoothing

down opponents is abundantly shown in a biography called "Lincoln's Manager, David Davis," by Willard L. King [Harvard University Press, \$6.75]. King's patient elucidation of evidence was exhibited earlier in his life story of Melville W. Fuller, one time chief justice of the United States.

David Davis of Bloomington was appointed associate justice of the United States Supreme court by Lincoln in 1862, served until 1877, and then became senator from Illinois. King, trying to characterize Davis with a lawyer's precision, says Davis was not brilliant, could not make a speech, but was a great judge and "his sense of justice was like an ear for music in a fine musician." His monument as a jurist in his decision for civil rights in the Milligan case [1886], in which he held against suspension of habeas corpus and trial of offenders by a military court where civil courts were open and able to try cases. But his work for Lincoln towers over all else.



David Davis

Without Davis, No Nomination

KING AGREES with Leonard Swett, who said, "Had Judge Davis not lived, Lincoln would not have been nominated." But he puts it with a reservation: "Without the judge's systematic plan of gathering votes at Chicago, some other candidate probably would have been chosen." This raises the question of the methods used by the honest, friendly, and tireless judge to line up the votes of Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana delegates to desert their favorites, Chase and Cameron.

King professes to find, in the Davis and Swett papers, abundant evidence that no binding commitments were made. Swett assured Lincoln that none was made, and Davis was so aboveboard, according to all the evidence adduced by King, that he would have done nothing underhanded. There is much to refute the story of a pledge to Caleb Smith, says the author; Lincoln appointed Smith because Davis and others urged him with considerable fervor. Similarly, Davis promised to "recommend" Cameron. We know how unwillingly Lincoln appointed Cameron, whose withdrawal helped Lincoln get the nomination.

"We Bought Them the Night Before"

MRS. MATILDA GRESHAM, who wrote Walter Q. Gresham's biography, said she heard from Davis' own lips that the cabinet job was pledged to Smith. King does not believe her. But he makes no mention of the flat statement by Joseph Medill, the young battling editor of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, that "we went to the Pennsylvania delegation and made a deal whereby Simon Cameron would be withdrawn after a complimentary ballot, the vote cast for Mr. Lincoln, and in the event of Mr. Lincoln's election, Cameron would be made secretary of war." Then Medill gloats over the piety of the Pennsylvania delegates, who announced next day that "having sought divine guidance" they agreed to vote for Lincoln.

Maybe King should add a word about this. For he has done an important study for students of history and Lincoln, practically a manual of how a nomination was wangled 100 years ago.

A 'Guest Editorial' in an Illinois Weekly First Suggested 'A. Lincoln for President'

Pittsfield Republican July 18, 1942

Editor's Note: One of the outstanding special editions of the year—noteworthy both for interesting content and arrangement of material—was the recent centennial edition of the Pike County Republican at Pittsfield, Ill., published by Mrs. Dot Dorsey Swan. One of the feature stories in that edition is headlined "A Pittsfield Meeting That Shaped a Nation's History." It tells how John George Nicolay, editor of the Pike County Free Press (a predecessor of the present Republican) first met Abraham Lincoln in the 1850s and how he later wrote a "guest editorial" which was the first suggestion of Lincoln for President and a short time later played an important part in his nomination for the presidency by the Republican party. The text of this feature story follows:

Possibly the destiny of a nation turned upon a chance meeting in the street on the east side of Pittsfield's public square, one day in the 1850s.

This momentous meeting took place in front of a little story-and-a-third shack which stood where the Zimmerman garage is now located and which is pictured elsewhere in this edition. In that shack was the old Army printing press that turned out the Pike County Free Press, early Whig newspaper belonging to the ancestry of the Pike County Republican.

On that day a tall gaunt man was leaving the old court house, in which he had been transacting some legal business. He walked east from the court house and through the gate in the fence that then surrounded the park. He started to cross the street. He was the man about whom more words have been written than about any other man who ever lived upon this globe, excepting Jesus Christ.

Up the street from the north that day came another, a man whom all Pike county grew to love. He was Tom Shastid, the beloved "country doctor" of the old days.

Plain 'Abe' Lincoln.

In the middle of the street the two men met. They clasped hands, greeted each other. They were old friends, were Tom and Abe. For the man who had come from the court house was Abe Lincoln, yet unknown to the world.

Tom had moved to Pittsfield with his folks in the beginning of 1836. The Shastid family had formerly lived at New Salem, where Lincoln kept store. Tom had often gone with his brothers to the store for a jug of molasses or other groceries. Lincoln got to know the Shastid boys well. Lincoln frequently visited the Shastids in the old house at 326 East Jefferson, still standing.

"Tom," said Abe, "I need a man for a job I have in mind." Abe told Tom the kind of job it was, the kind of man he needed.

"I know just the man," said Tom; "come with me."

Tom piloted Abe across the street and into the little printshop.

At the editorial desk sat red-
(Continued on Page Four.)

(Continued from Page One.)

headed John George Nicolay, whose garret bedroom over the printshop young Shastid had often shared with his friend, when the latter was poor and lonely.

Tom Shastid introduced Lincoln and Nicolay, and from that moment began a friendship between the two that was to make Nicolay the private secretary of the war President, a friendship destined to endure until that night in Ford's theater when Nicolay saw his chief fall at the hands of an assassin.

As a result of this meeting in the little printshop in Pittsfield, Nicolay at the end of the Fremont campaign in 1856 sold the Free Press and went to Springfield. In Springfield he later read law in Lincoln's law office.

Nicolay came back to Pittsfield on a visit in February, 1860. He had a sweetheart in the town, Theresina Bates, the only girl who had smiled at him when he was poor and ragged. On that visit he dropped into the office of Col. Daniel B. Bush, who was publishing the Pike County Journal, successor of the Free Press, and predecessor of today's Pike County Republican.

Asked to Write Editorial.

Colonel Bush asked Nicolay to write an editorial. Up to this time, Lincoln had been mentioned chiefly as a candidate for the vice presidency, with Seward for President. The editorial which Nicolay wrote and which Colonel Bush published in his Pike County Journal for February 9, 1860, was headed: "For President, Hon. Abraham Lincoln, subject to the decision of the National Republican Convention." In this editorial Nicolay pointed out that there would be one more battle with the delusion of Douglasism in Illinois but that in the hands of Abe Lincoln the Union would be safe.

Came the National Convention in May, in the Wigwam at Chicago. Seward's eastern friends were powerful. The cause of Lincoln seemed hopeless.

But back in the little town of Pittsfield, Tom Shastid and Abe Lincoln had chanced to meet in the street. As a result, Tom Shastid introduced Abe Lincoln and John George Nicolay. Incident to that introduction, Nicolay wrote a great editorial in Colonel Bush's paper. And now that chance meeting in the street began to bear mighty fruit

Col. William Ross and other champions of Lincoln bethought them of Nicolay's editorial. The convention was deadlocked. Suddenly there was a change of sentiment. Many left the convention, never knowing what occasioned the change. Lincoln's friends had dug up Nicolay's editorial. They had it reprinted in hundreds of copies overnight. They circulated the editorial among the delegates. Lincoln was nominated on the third ballot, receiving 231 votes to Seward's 180.

So it was that when Dr. Tom and Honest Abe met on a street in Pittsfield one day in the 1850s, a train of events was initiated that may have had much to do with shaping a nation's destiny.

The truth of the foregoing series of events is vouched for by Joseph C. Shastid of Pittsfield, a son of Pioneer Dr. Tom Shastid, whom he often heard relate the story of that chance meeting on Pittsfield's public square and the chain of events that flowed therefrom.

Here is the complete text of Nicolay's historic editorial as it appeared in the February 9, 1860, issue of the Pike County Journal:

FOR PRESIDENT, HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Subject to the Decision of the National Republican Convention.

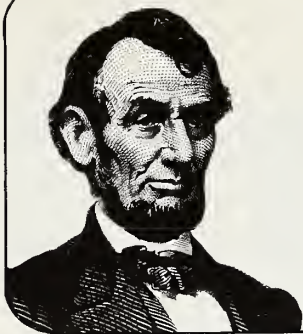
We are very confident that we express the almost unanimous sentiment of the Republicans of Pike county in the announcement we make at the head of this article—a sentiment founded not only on the personal attachment to and admiration of Mr. Lincoln, but prompted also by a careful estimate of his qualifications both as to his fitness and availability to be chosen as the candidate in the coming campaign. It is conceded that the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana and Illinois will be the decisive battleground in the approaching contest, and of them Pennsylvania and Illinois are most hopeful of Republican success. While that Mr. Lincoln would be as acceptable to the Republican voters of Pennsylvania as any man whose name has yet been mentioned, we know he is beyond comparison the strongest man for the state of Illinois. We do not state this as mere speculation—the fact is acceptable of demonstration by figures. Give us Lincoln as the candidate and we can promise the electoral vote of Illinois for the Republicans, as a sure result. It is due to the growing interest and power of the west that the next Republican convention shall give her a candidate on the presidential ticket, and to no man in the west does the honor more preeminently belong than to Lincoln. From the introduction of the Nebraska bill to

the present time, he has fought the extension of slavery as the champion chosen and pitted against the great apostle of popular sovereignty and has wrested triumph after triumph from the Little Giant for republicanism in the west.

We shall have yet one more battle with the delusion of Douglasism in the state of Illinois, and with no man's weapons can we arm ourselves as securely or fight as successfully as with the arguments offensive and defensive which Abe Lincoln has furnished us. Whatever may be the choice of the politicians, the people of Illinois are undoubtedly for Lincoln. They know him honest and capable, a man of simple habits and plain manners, but possessing a true heart and one of the noblest intellects in the land. He maintains the faith of the fathers of the Republic, he believes in the Declaration of Independence, he yields obedience to the Constitution and laws of his country. He has the radicalism of Jefferson and of Clay and the conservatism of Washington and Jackson. In his hands the Union would be safe.



A neighboring editor states that he has read of a number of ways by which tough meat can be made tender, but the plan he has the greatest amount of faith in is cutting the meat off the steer a few years younger.—Onarga (Ill.) Leader-Review.



Lincoln Lore

April, 1981

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.
Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.

Number 1718

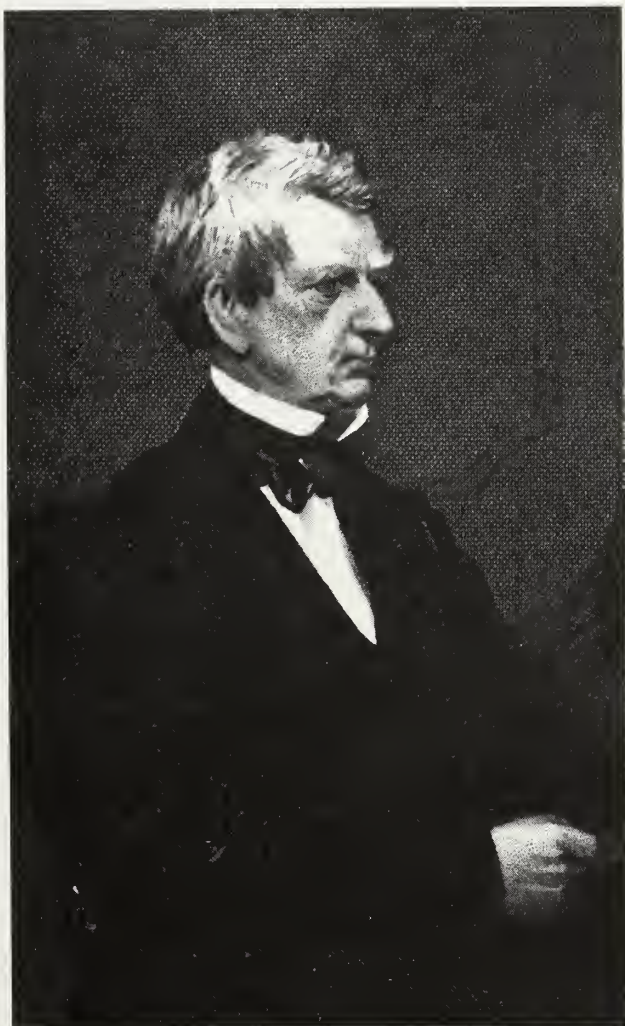
NEW LIGHT ON THE SEWARD-WELLES-LINCOLN CONTROVERSY?

Charles Francis Adams delivered a eulogy on William H. Seward in April, 1873, about six months after Seward's death. Isolated from day-to-day political developments during the Civil War by his residence in England and indebted to Secretary of State Seward for his appointment as Ambassador to England, Adams thought that Seward had been the mastermind of the Lincoln administration. His eulogy on Seward made that point clear. It also rankled Gideon Welles.

As Secretary of the Navy during the Lincoln administration, Welles undeniably occupied a better seat to observe the inner

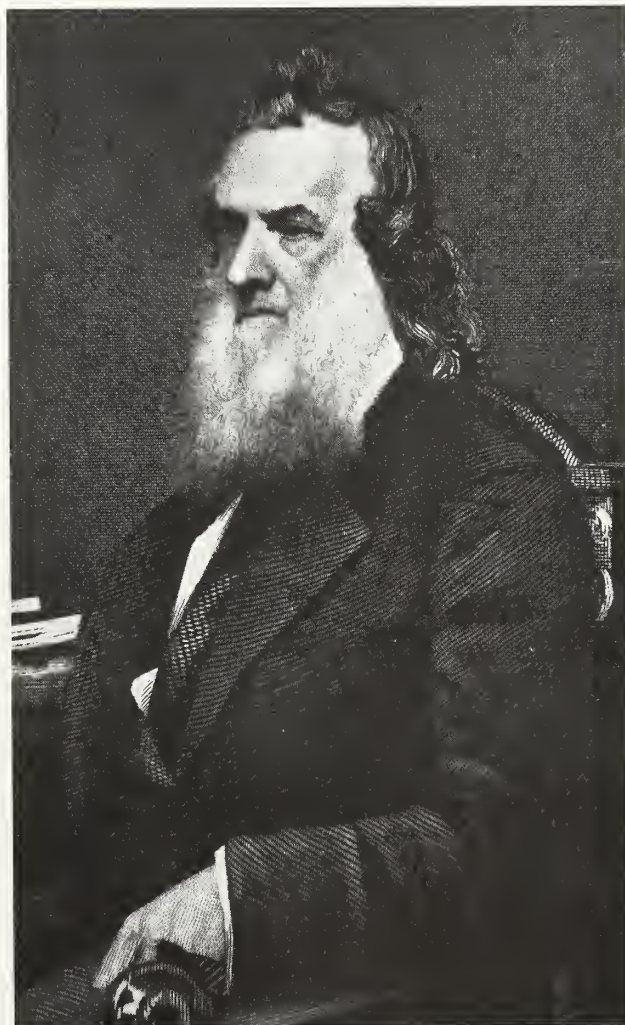
workings of the Lincoln administration. He had never liked Seward, and he possessed considerable talents as a polemical writer and delineator of acid portraits. Welles's rebuttal to Adams's eulogy appeared in a book, *Lincoln and Seward*, published in 1874. Welles, as his able biographer John Niven put it, "was the first promoter of the Lincoln legend." Seward's stock went down, never to rise above Lincoln's again.

Welles's book struck a responsive chord in George B. Lincoln, an obscure New York politician who had been Brooklyn's postmaster during the Civil War. After reading the book, he wrote a



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. William H. Seward.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 2. Gideon Welles.

long letter to its author. The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum acquired the letter this year, and it is published here for the first time.

Rivervale Bergin Co N.J. April 25th 1874

Hon Gideon Welles

My dear Sir

A thoughtful friend recently sent me a copy of the book called "*Lincoln & Seward*". Having thanked him for sending it. I perform now the pleasant duty—of thanking you for writing it—I read these articles as they appeared in the *Galaxy* and then promised myself to write & thank you for the timely service you were rendering to our country in correcting at once the false impression that the address of *Mr Adams* was giving of the relative status in public affairs of *Pres. Lincoln* and his *Sec Mr Seward*.

Mr Lincoln was my personal friend long before he came to Washington in 1861. I think I remember telling you once of the style of apartments they gave *Mr Lincoln* at the Astor House in March 1860. and my complaint thereat—and telling the office boys there that the time would come when they would not offer him such a room as *No 17*—telling them that he was to be the next President of the United States—at which they laughed immediately—asking me if I was *Crazy*! I refer to this, as I recollect the remark you made to me the first time we met after the inauguration when you said—"The Astor House people found a different set of apartments for *Mr Lincoln* when he came on this time from those they gave him a few years ago—did they not?"

Pardon me if I devote a little time this stormy night to giving you a few of my early impressions & reminiscences of my good namesake. Had my name been *Smith* or *Jones* I would have known but little of *Lincoln*, about as much as the average of *Smith & Jones* family did previous to 1860. But my name was *Lincoln*—and my business interests brought me in continual contact with those who knew my namesake well and regarded him much—and my name would perpetually suggest some anecdote or fact relating to *Abraham* which being repeated—became after awhile to convince me that if the reputation of a man who stood so strong at home could be made national—nothing could withstand it in a competing political canvas.

In these articles before me you refer to the presentation of *Mr Lincoln's* name at *Phil*^a in 1856 for the place of *Vice President*—a matter that few remembered in 1860.

But when I read the account of the doings of that convention I said to myself—"That one hundred & ten votes if properly utilised will defeat *Seward* and nominate *Lincoln*." Within thirty days thereafter I stated my belief to my intimate personal friends among whom I remember my then brilliant young friend *Theodore Tilton*. For the two years and more that followed I lost no opportunity when among those active in public affairs to declare my belief that *Lincoln* was the coming man—but I was looked upon as *cracked*! at least upon political subjects and then in the autumn of 1858 came the great controversy between *Lincoln & Douglass*—when people began to open their eyes a little; when the name of my friend was mentioned. The next winter I visited Springfield while their Legislature was in session.

I enquired who were *Lincoln's* partial friends and influential withal. I was told that *Leonard Swett* a very able Lawyer and a member of the Senate was perhaps his most influential political friend. Ascertaining that there was to be a reception at the house of the *Governor (Bissell)* that night I thought that my best opportunity perhaps to make the acquaintance of *Swett* and other of *Lincoln's* friends. I went expecting to meet *Lincoln* there himself—but he did not come. I then introduced myself to *Mr Swett* & told him my convictions in the matter of *Lincoln* as a future candidate for the Presidency and there gave him my reasons therefor. It was a small gathering—and soon I found myself surrounded by the warm friends of my namesake and then & there I proposed to them a plan of procedure which if carried out by his friends would I thought result in giving to *Ill* the next candidate.

It seemed a new thought to these gentlemen—for all they hoped for was to place him *second* on the ticket *That* they

thought would be easy—but to head the ticket was a new idea. *Seward* seemed to have the whole field. But I spoke as an Eastern man knowing that *Seward* was damaged somewhat by the perpetual howl of the *New York Herald* that he was a full fledged *abolitionist*! (which name he never, to the day of his death truly deserved) while on the other hand *Mr Lincoln* had not been in Washington to be mixed up with the *Helper Book matter* or any other matter requiring defence. *One hundred & ten* had declared their regard for him at *Phil*^a and the *Douglass* controversy had given *Mr Lincoln* a national reputation among thoughtful men.

I returned to New York by way of Columbus O. and the City of Washington—calling upon my friends at the Capital—I knew but few—but among them were *Owen Lovejoy* of Ill & *John F. Potter* of Wis. To these I declared my views—but that anybody but myself saw the thing possible—did not appear. I sought *Mr Greeley* and had a long talk with him. and also with *Gov Morgan*—who was *Seward's* warm friend. *Gov Morgan* took down from his case a copy of the doings of the *Phil*^a convention and read to me a speech made there by some western man—a rough subject—who had nominated *Mr Lincoln* there. I went to *Parton* to see if he would not write a *life of Lincoln*—but he said he had no impulse that way—while he liked the man—but he could not write without impulse! Said he could write the *life of Burr* whom he disliked because he had an impulse to do so.

Another year rolled around when I again found myself in the west. *Carpenter* in his '*Six Months at the White House*' tells the story of my finding at *Naples* on the Ill. River an old man by the name of *Pollard Simmons* who told me the story of *Lincoln* having lived with him while yet a young man and working—among other things at *Splitting Rails*! When *Simmons* told me that story I said to myself—I would not take the vote of *three small states* for that fact.

In occasional letters to the *New York Tribune* & to the *Press & Tribune of Chicago* I had taken occasion to say kind words for *Lincoln*—but not as a Presidential candidate—and when I reached *Sandoval* in Southern Ill I wrote a letter to the *Press* and *Tribune* giving the facts of my interview with *Mr Simmons* & also some fact concerning *Lincoln* which *Shelby Culom* (late M. C. whom few will remember) gave me in relation to the manner of his (*Lincoln's*) studying law. These facts were taken from my Chicago letter by the *New York Tribune* and published a few days later under the head of *Personal of Lincoln*. My object was accomplished. My friend was now advertised as a *Rail Splitter* and the use made of that political war club was all that I could have reasonably asked. I think it was even better than the *Hard Cider* dodge.

I again sought *Swett*. He was practicing law in court at *Bloomington*—before Judge *David Davis* I again went over my programme—and when he had heard me he asked me to wait until the court adjourned for he wanted me to talk to *Davis* as I had done to him. This I did.

I kept busy as best I could up to the time of the meeting of the convention and finally wrote the leading communication in the *Press & Tribune* published the morning the convention met from my place of business in New York—claiming as a New Yorker that *Lincoln* would make a better run than *Seward*.

Three weeks ago I met in *Chicago* *Mr Swett*. He took me by the hand and said *Mr Lincoln*! you were the first man who gave us any confidence in our state that we could nominate *Lincoln*. He had said the same before at my house in Brooklyn.

Believing that I had something to do in giving courage to *Mr Lincoln's* home friends, and having furnished the *Rail Splitting* club for the party I thought you might be interested sufficiently in my story to read it.

Two little incidents I will relate which may, under the circumstances interest you. Early in January 1861 I visited my friend at Springfield. Spending an evening at his house by invitation—in the course of conversation the President remarked that he had tendered to *Mr Bates* a seat in his Cabinet and asked me what I thought of it I told him that I thought it a proper appointment in all respects—and especially a compliment to a class with whom *Mr Bates* had acted politically and who had come in with us. I then said *Mr President*! Pardon me if I tell you what else I would do—and then I said "were I in your place



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 3. Carl Schurz.

I would say to *Mr Seward* Sir!—what have I at command that you will accept? You can be my *Secretary of State* or if you prefer—the court of *St James* is at your service!”—At this *Mrs Lincoln* rallied with “Never! Never! Seward in the Cabinet! Never! If things should go on all right—the credit would go to *Seward*—if they went wrong—the blame would fall upon my husband. Seward in the Cabinet! Never!” I then stated to *Madam* that she had not waited to hear the remainder of what I had to say—which was *this* “That will be your part I hope *Mr Seward* will have the sense of propriety and delicacy to say in reply” —“Sir! I am a *Senator* and just now I desire nothing more.” “*I do not desire to see Mr Seward in the Cabinet*” *Mr. Lincoln* performed his part—but the sense of delicacy, & as it seemed then to me propriety was lacking upon the other side.

I may be ungenerous, but I can never divest my mind of the impression that had the result of the war been the reverse of what it was—there would been few tears to be shed by *Somebody*!

One other story & I will worry you no farther. In the early part of 1867 I was in Wisconsin, and spent a day at *East Troy* with *Hon John F. Potter*. He then related to me what occurred at the rooms of the *Sec of State* in the early part of 1861. *Schultz* name had been mentioned as a candidate for a mission abroad and one afternoon (Says *Potter*) “*Doolittle* & myself called upon the President to advance *Mr Schultz* interests.

The President said “Yes. I am in favor of giving *Mr Schultz* a foreign appointment—but the Secretary opposes it.” and begged of them to call upon the Secretary in relation to it. This seemed strange said *Potter*—for as between *Lincoln* & *Seward* at Chicago—*Schultz* was a *Seward* man. So they called upon *Mr Seward* and stated their business. *Mr S.* answered that he

was utterly opposed to sending men abroad who were exiles and whose opinions were obnoxious to those to whom they were accredited—and therefore was opposed to the appointment of *Mr S. Potter* then said to the *Sec* “—I thought we sent men abroad to represent *our* views—not *theirs*!” After exhausting all argument with the *Sec* to no avail—they arose to depart—Saying as they went that *Mr Schultz* would be disappointed at not having his cooperation in the matter. At this the *Sec.* rose in great rage—swinging his arms and rushing across the room exclaiming “dissappointed! disappointed! talk to *me* about disappointment! look at *Me!* simply a clerk of the President!”]

You may have heard *Sec Stanton* tell this story of the Spanish Minister who called upon him one day and declared himself thus “*Stanton!* you have the *funniest* country here of all the earth—you have *no* government—but you move along—all the same—just as though you had[.] *Stanton!* there are three things which God almighty seems to take special care of viz *Drunkards!* *Little children* and the *United States of America!*!”]

That “special care” it seems to me was our national salvation.

Sincerely thanking you for your timely labor to protect the reputation and precious memory of our mutual friend

Believe me
with great respect
Your friend
Geo. B. Lincoln

How reliable a witness was George B. Lincoln? Can we really believe a man who claimed, fourteen years after the fact, to have originated the famous “rail-splitter” image? If George Lincoln was shrewd enough to realize in 1856 that Abraham Lincoln could take the Republican nomination from Seward, he was more politically astute than most of the politicians in America—moreso even than Abraham Lincoln himself. Did George Lincoln really ask James Parton to write a campaign biography in the winter of 1858-1859, months before the idea occurred to Abraham Lincoln’s political intimates in Illinois? Did Abraham Lincoln, as President-elect, really invite the would-be Brooklyn postmaster to Springfield and discuss Cabinet appointments in his presence? Would Mrs. Lincoln, whose knowledge of the intentions of her husband’s administration never appeared very strong, have been present at such a discussion? Could a small-time politician who could not recall Carl Schurz’s name accurately have possibly known the things he claimed to know? In short, was George B. Lincoln a blowhard or a knowledgeable insider?

We can never know the answer for certain, but there is some good evidence that George B. Lincoln was not a thoroughly reliable witness. The Illinois State Historical Library, for example, owns a letter from the Brooklyn politician to Francis B. Carpenter which is an admission of error in telling a story about President Lincoln. Carpenter, who had spent six months in the White House painting a canvas which celebrated the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, capitalized on his experiences after the President’s assassination by publishing reminiscences in various periodicals. Some of these were Carpenter’s own recollections, but others he gleaned from other associates of the President—including the Brooklyn postmaster. On December 19, 1867, George B. Lincoln told Carpenter: “I notice in the papers a card from Ex Governor Seymour of New York denying the truthfulness of the alleged interview between the late President Lincoln & himself—as reported in your reminiscences of Mr. Lincoln as published in the Independent of the 12th inst. Having stated this story to you—as it was given to me—*falsely* as it now appears I take the earliest moment to express my regret that I should have been the means of furnishing an item untrue in itself and offensive to all concerned.” He went on to explain that he had been fooled by the wealth of details supplied by his informant.

To his credit, George B. Lincoln did apologize to Carpenter

and allowed him to use his letter as an explanation of the error. Moreover, this incident is not enough to cause historians to dismiss all of George Lincoln's assertions of contacts with the President. In Carpenter's book, *Six Months at the White House*, published a year before the article with the Seymour story, the Pollard Simmons anecdote appeared. In addition to the rail-splitting incident, George Lincoln had also repeated Simmons's story that Abraham Lincoln had refused a surveying job offered him by a Democratic appointee as surveyor. The future President was reputed to have said, "... I never have been under obligation to a Democratic administration, and I never intend to be so long as I can get my living another way." Carpenter asked the President whether the story were true, and he replied: "It is correct about our working together; but the old man must have stretched the facts somewhat about the survey of the county. I think I should have been very glad of the job at that time, no matter what administration was in power." Once again, George B. Lincoln was partly in error—but only partly. He seems to have been consistently guilty of repeating stories about Abraham Lincoln without checking his sources, but he may well have repeated accurately what he heard.

Without doubt, George B. Lincoln did have some contact with his more famous namesake. He had opportunities to visit Illinois as the representative of a New York dry goods firm. Carpenter himself saw George Lincoln in the President's office on the Sunday before Lincoln's reinauguration in 1865. And several letters in the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress prove that George B. Lincoln had occasional contacts with the President.

George Lincoln wrote his first letter to Abraham Lincoln on May 19, 1860, just after the Republican nominating convention. He congratulated the Republican nominee and chatted for a while about their common surname. An old Whig himself, the less famous Lincoln noted, "I have never known a Lincoln who was a *Loco Foco*! Not one—all have been Whigs to a man." In 1860, he claimed to have declared his faith in Abraham Lincoln's ability to gain the Republican nomination "East and West for near two years"—not, it should be noted, since 1856. He feared that Hannibal Hamlin "will not greatly improve the ticket anywhere that we need help—but it does not *drag*—we are safe." He closed the letter by saying, characteristically, "I am about sending to *Father Simmonds at Havana* for a couple of those '*Rails*'!"

On September 22, 1860, George Lincoln wrote the nominee again, mentioning "our mutual friend [Shelby] Cullom," from whom the Brooklyn travelling salesman had obtained "some time ago a profile likeness of yourself—for which you kindly sat to gratify an enthusiastic young republican—(an *ex democrat*) who desired to issue from it a campaign medal." George Lincoln sent by "your worthy neighbor Mr. Alvey," who was returning to Springfield, some presents to Abraham Lincoln's children: "a few specimens of the Medals—which are here considered the best which have been issued." "Please present them as complimentary from *William Legget Bramhall* and our two sons—lads—who are 'Lincolns too,'" he wrote jovially. He also sent photographs to the boys and to Mrs. Lincoln. He concluded the letter with observations on the political scene in New York. Central New York state was safe, the Know-Nothing vote was safe, the disappointment over Seward's loss of the nomination was largely abated, and the old Southern Whigs with whom he did business thought the Union would be safe in Abraham Lincoln's hands.

After the election George B. Lincoln sent the usual recommendations for office and letters of introduction for businessmen seeking favors. President Lincoln was still seeing correspondence from George Lincoln in 1864. Like almost all politicians in New York, the Brooklyn postmaster became embroiled in the patronage controversies surrounding the New York Custom House. The Lincoln administration's Indian

Commissioner, William P. Dole, visited New York early in 1864 to investigate the controversy. After his return, George Lincoln wrote to inform him of strong sentiment for the appointment of Simeon Draper as Collector. He said that Hiram Barney, the incumbent, was very unpopular. Though he made clear his own opposition to the interests of Salmon P. Chase, he did not stress Barney's alleged pro-Chase affinities as an objection to his continuance in office. He argued, rather, that Barney was very unpopular with merchants and that mercantile people did not want a lawyer as the Collector. Lincoln also mentioned in the letter the fact that he kept a bust of the President draped in a flag in his home in Brooklyn.

George B. Lincoln was a windy old bore. Of that there can be no doubt. His letter to Welles covered seven and one-half pages of paper. His affection for President Lincoln—which grew out of the coincidence of shared surnames—was genuine, however. He did have some close contacts with the Lincoln administration. Though he tended to be somewhat uncritical in repeating stories he heard about the President, George B. Lincoln might have known what he was talking about. From all evidence political bias did not account for his willingness to think the worst of Seward. After all, the opposition to Hiram Barney was led by the Seward-Weed wing of the Republican party in New York, and he had clearly been with Seward's men in that fight. George B. Lincoln's anecdotes may be questionable, but they certainly appear worthy of further investigation.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 4. As late as 1863, Seward still had a reputation as the strong man in the administration.

A PRESIDENT MAKER.

Justice Cartter's Part in Nominating Lincoln and Grant.

How Mr. Forney Was Induced to Suggest Grant's Name in His Washington Paper. What the Ohio Delegation Did for Mr. Lincoln.

Special Correspondence of THE PRESS.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—Chief Justice Cartter, of the District of Columbia, has been largely instrumental in the making of two presidents. He was the man who, in connection with John W. Forney, persuaded General Grant to become a presidential candidate in 1868, and it was his action in the Convention of 1860, as chairman of the Ohio delegation, that more than anything else accomplished the nomination of Abraham Lincoln over William H. Seward. I asked him the other night for the story of Grant's nomination. He replied:

"The Republican party was in a critical condition during the closing days of the term of Andrew Johnson, and the question as to who should lead the party during the coming campaign was agitating the minds of all the leaders. Among the candidates thought of was General Grant, but his name had not gotten into the newspapers, and it was only whispered here and there in private conversation. One great objection to him was his unknown political standing. He had been a Democrat before the war. The Democrats were talking of him as a candidate, and there was serious danger that they would nominate him.

"I thought the matter over and decided that the Republican party ought to bring him out as its candidate. If he accepted, well and good. We could make the race with him and win. If not, the Democrats could not take him up as their candidate after we had claimed him as ours, and we would thus keep him out of the campaign. General Grant was at this time a very strong man before the people. He was fresh from his great career as a general, full of patriotism and possessed of a great love for the Union. I felt sure that if elected a Republican president he would be true to his party and to the country.

MR. FORNEY'S HESITATION.

"Thinking thus I met Mr. Forney on the corner of Twelfth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, just where the Pension Office now is, and asked:

"Forney, who is your candidate for the presidency?"

"I have no candidate," was the reply.

"What do you think of Grant?" said I.

"Upon his demurring, I explained my reasons for thinking Grant a good candidate, and the danger which threatened us provided the Democrats should nominate him. I spoke of his patriotism, and the fact that he wanted to see the Union preserved. 'He has a good record,' said I, 'and editorially you can turn it into a better one.' I closed by telling him that he must go to the *Chronicle* Office and write a leader nominating Grant as the candidate of the Republican party. 'After you have written it,' said I, 'wait a few days and then take occasion to meet Grant, and you will find how he takes it.'

"I don't know whether I will or not," said Forney. 'I don't know whether we dare trust Grant.' He finally consented, however, and went off and wrote the editorial, coming out strongly for Grant. The article created a great sensation. It was widely noticed, and brought Grant out prominently before the country.

GRANT NOT ANXIOUS.

"Mr. Forney, as I suggested, met General Grant a few days later, and Grant, in speaking of it, appeared very indifferent and said he did not want to be a candidate. He was perfectly satisfied with his position as general of the army and he did not want to go into the White House. Mr. Forney remonstrated with him on the ground of patriotism, and on the ground of the necessity of his election to the preservation of the Union. He spoke of McClellan and made a strong plea without getting any satisfaction.

"I met General Grant a few days after this. He was still indifferent, and asserted his unwillingness to become a candidate. But I could see that he was somewhat interested, and I left him satisfied that it was all right, and that he would accept. I told Forney this, and before the convention met there was no doubt but that Grant would accept. He was nominated and elected, and his Republicanism so grew during the canvass that there became no doubt of his political standing. Had he not been brought to the front at the time he was, the Democrats might have nominated him and our whole history been changed by the result."

HOW LINCOLN WAS NOMINATED.

"President Lincoln's first nomination," said Judge Cartter in reply to a question as to the Convention of 1860, "was very doubtful up to the hour at which it was accomplished. When the Convention met Seward was by all odds the strongest of the several candidates, and had a ballot been held the day the Convention first came to order he might have been nominated. The Ohio delegation was elected at Columbus and was instructed for Chase. I was one of the delegates-at-large and the chairman of the delegation. The Ohio delegation of 1860 was made up of mature politicians. Among the delegates were such men as Tom Corwin and Columbus Delano. The majority of the delegation were unfriendly to Chase. I knew Chase could not be nominated, but I thought Ohio ought to give him a complimentary vote, and tried to accomplish this. Delano and Corwin were very much opposed to Chase, but a majority of the delegation finally decided to vote for him in the Convention. The remainder scattered their votes among the other candidates. When we met in convention I had a secretary, who kept a close tally of the votes as they were given, and who told me how each candidate stood at the close of the announcement of the vote of each state. In the course of the second ballot of the second day, from his statement I saw that three votes would nominate Lincoln.

"I then asked the delegation if four or five of them would not join me in leaving Chase and going to Lincoln, telling them how the count stood and that we could thus elect Lincoln and beat Seward. I did not know Lincoln, but I had no faith in Seward and I wanted him beaten. The Ohio delegation was not backward in coming to my support. The chairman of the Convention, Mr. Ashmun, was one of my old Congressional friends. I caught his eye. He recognized me and gave me the floor. I changed the vote of Ohio, and Lincoln was nominated. It was a full minute before the Convention appreciated the fact. In the meantime 10,000 pencils were busy at as many tally-sheets. Then there burst forth one of those storms of cheers and wild applause which are only known to national conventions, and Lincoln was given the enthusiastic support which followed him till he was elected in November."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

HOW LINCOLN WAS NOMINATED.

A CALIFORNIAN CLAIMS THE RESPONSIBILITY—HE HAD GREELEY SENT FROM OREGON.

From The Chicago Tribune.

James Madison Conner, now living in Sonoma County, Cal., makes the startling assertion that the nomination of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 was due to him, and claims that but for him Lincoln might never have been President, the Civil War might never have occurred, the colored man might still be in slavery, and any number of epoch making events might never have taken place.

He bases his claim on the fact that in the Oregon Republican State Convention of 1860 he introduced the resolution which made Horace Greeley a delegate-at-large from Oregon to the Republican National Convention. Greeley defeated Seward in the convention, Seward's defeat gave the nomination to Lincoln, and Mr. Conner figures it that if he had not offered Greeley's name in the Oregon convention the New-York editor would not have been a delegate, and could not have worked as effectively as he did against Seward, who might then have been nominated instead of Lincoln. Mr. Conner does not claim all, or even half, the credit for Lincoln's nomination and the subsequent events; yet, he says, the web which was completed at the Chicago Convention had its origin in his resolution in the Oregon convention, and the tracer must finally arrive there.

HOW GREELEY BECAME A DELEGATE.

Here is Mr. Conner's own story of how he did it: "Just before the Civil War I, with but a few others in Oregon, was known as a stalwart Abolitionist. Believing the life of our Republic lay in the success of the Republicans that year, I spent many anxious nights trying to decide what I individually should do to throw my mite toward the preservation of the Union. Poor in purse, but valent in patriotism, I was willing to do anything aid the cause. I was in this frame of mind when the Oregon State Convention met in Portland. I was running an engine in a Polk County sawmill. One morning I resolved, on an impulse, to attend the convention. In less than two hours I was on my journey of seventy-five miles on a borrowed horse, with scarcely enough of the wherewithal to keep me in provender for a day, a self-constituted delegate from Polk County.

"All that long and weary trip I was turning over and over in my mind the most important business which would come before the convention—namely, the sending of a proper delegate to the Chicago Convention to represent our Infant State. Suddenly it flashed across my mind that if a proxy were to be sent I would see that it was given to that lion of Republicanism, Horace Greeley.

"Arriving at Portland, I met a namesake of mine, John Conner, merchant of Albany, and importuned him to go to Chicago to represent the State. He refused upon the ground that he did not have time.

Failing to find a suitable person to go, I told Mr. Conner that if a proxy had to be sent to any one living in the East I had my man picked out. He inquired of me who he was, and I told him that I would name him on the floor of the convention, and no one in the body would question his Republicanism.

SPEECH NAMING GREELEY.

"When the convention met and an opportunity presented itself, I arose and, as far as I can remember it, made my speech in these words:

"I have in my mind a man well worthy to represent this young State in the councils of the National Republican Convention in Chicago. He has contributed more than any other one man toward building up the Republican party of the United States. It is through the influence of his paper that Republican principles have been promulgated in every nook and corner of our glorious country, and, knowing his capacity as a teacher of the highest civilization, I have the honor to present the name of Horace Greeley, Editor of The New-York Tribune, to represent Oregon at Chicago. He will not refuse so sacred a trust."

"John Conner seconded his nomination, stating that he knew of no man more worthy to receive the honor of representing Oregon than Horace Greeley. And thus it was that the great apostle had a seat in the convention. John W. Forney and James G. Blaine have said, and all students of political history know, that Mr. Greeley's opposition to Seward in the Chicago Convention defeated that candidate's nomination. While Greeley on the first ballot voted for Bates, it was his following that nominated Lincoln on the third ballot. Thus it stands that I am the man who was instrumental in presenting the country in her hour of need with Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President."

GREELEY'S GREAT INFLUENCE.

Horace Greeley had refused a seat in the New-York delegation because of the application of the unit rule to its actions, but accepted the offer to represent Oregon. Mr. Greeley's fight on the floor against Seward undoubtedly did have much to do with the defeat of the latter, and Mr. Conner quotes several authorities to prove it, notably Blaine, who in his "Twenty Years of Congress" says: "Seward's chances were seriously injured by the open, defiant defection of Horace Greeley. Not willing to appear in the New-York delegation, Mr. Greeley sat in the convention as a representative from Oregon—a free lance."

Mr. Conner was born in Indiana. His father, a soldier under Wellington, migrated to the United States soon after the battle of Waterloo. Mr. Conner went to California in 1853 in search of gold, and in 1858 moved on to the Fraser River. Returning from there, he fell in with Jesse Quinn Thornton, a prominent lawyer of Oregon Territory, who asked him to come into his office as a law student. He became a lawyer, and law gave him a taste for politics. His interest in politics vanished in 1872, however, when he refused to support Grant for a second term and lost his standing in the party. Since then he has lived on a farm in the woods of California, and led a retired existence until recently, when he came out with his unique claim to the honors of a President maker, or rather the maker of a giant figure in the world's history, who, according to Mr. Conner, might never have been so but for him.

A VERY INTERESTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCUSSION concerning the circumstances surrounding the nomination of ABRAHAM LINCOLN for the Presidency, and the events which led up to it, has been made by the REV. F. C. IGLEHART, of Newark, N. J., formerly a resident of Bloomington, Ill. It was embodied in a paper recently read before the Methodist Preachers' Meeting of Newark, extracts from which have since appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper*. The following will be read with interest:

MR. DAVIS's native ability, finished education, gentlemanly demeanor, and unconquerable will made him a superb manager of men. He instinctively assumed a mastery that was accorded to him. His first appearance in national politics was in the canvass for the nomination of MR. LINCOLN to the Presidency, in which contest his magnificent generalship was so illustrated that he immediately took a conspicuous and permanent place among the wise politicians of the country. He was the leader of the LINCOLN forces in the Chicago Convention, and, more than any other, was responsible for LINCOLN's nomination. DAVID DAVIS, LEONARD SWETT, of Chicago, JESSE D. FELL, of Normal, and others, dominated the forces which placed MR. LINCOLN in nomination. But the chief credit is given to JUDGE DAVIS. MR. SWETT said recently: "It is not generally known, but true, that LINCOLN owed his nomination in 1860 to the friends he made among the circuit attorneys, and particularly to JUDGE DAVIS." JESSE D. FELL wrote to a United States senator: "To JUDGE DAVIS, more than any other man living or dead, is the American people indebted for that extraordinary piece of good fortune—the nomination and consequent election of ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

In 1836, the year after MR. DAVIS went West, he was introduced to MR. LINCOLN at Vandalia, Ill., and the acquaintance formed ripened into the closest intimacy and intensest affection. JUDGE DAVIS rode the circuit, and MR. LINCOLN was one of the few attorneys who went all the way around with him. They stayed at the same tavern, often slept in the same bed, and became like brothers. And when the elements in the South and North were preparing for the conflict, and the times were calling for a giant, JUDGE DAVIS and the circle of able lawyers who stood nearest to MR. LINCOLN and knew him best, felt that he was the man for the times, and they determined that, if possible, he should be the nation's chief; and MR. LINCOLN, feeling within his breast the symptoms of a greatness that could not be suppressed, and hearing the voice of Destiny calling to him, permitted his friends to present his claims. They captured the State Convention in Decatur in May with a shout, securing a unanimous recommendation of MR. LINCOLN for nomination to the Presidency.

They set themselves to the more difficult task of taking possession of the National Convention, to be held in a few weeks at Chicago. They went to Chicago a week before the convention and opened their head-quarters at the Tremont House. JUDGE DAVIS, who was a delegate-at-large from the Decatur Convention appointed on purpose to lead in LINCOLN's interest, instinctively and by common consent became the commander-in-chief of all the forces. He organized the State delegation into committees and assigned them work for almost every hour of the day and night, and by his good generalship the National Convention was secured for MR. LINCOLN. And when the decisive ballot was cast, and he saw what he had accomplished for his bosom friend, he broke down and wept like a child. Hearing that THURLOW WEED, who had managed the SEWARD forces, was sore at his defeat, he with MR. SWETT called on him, though they were both strangers to him. Among other things, MR. WEED said: "You are a new hand in conventions and I am an old one; now it is all over, I want you to tell me how you did it." They persuaded MR. WEED to go with them to Springfield to confer with MR. LINCOLN about the campaign; which he did.

Letters in the *Life of Thurlow Weed* show that DAVIS and SWETT in the West, and WEED in the East, had the management of the LINCOLN campaign. MR. LINCOLN recognized the service of his bosom friend in his behalf by appointing him to one of the highest judicial offices in the gift of man. At LINCOLN's death, JUDGE DAVIS took charge of his affairs and settled his estate, keeping all the papers in his safe in Bloomington carefully tied up with a piece of green braid. Having been so successful in making LINCOLN President, he concluded he would like to be President himself, and he did reach an eminence during his presidency of the Senate with only the frail life of MR. ARTHUR between him and the Chief Magistracy. The man who had the disposition and ability to give LINCOLN to the country in the hour of its peril was a wise statesman, a true patriot, and a great benefactor, whose name should be cherished for generations and whose influence can never die.

* * *

A bright young lawyer of this city who has a historical interest attached to his life is Quinton Corwine, the son of the late Hon. R. M. Corwine, whose vote nominated Lincoln for the Presidency in 1860. It is a curious fact that in all the biographies of Lincoln so little is said of the leading incident in his life. Many great men were candidates before that convention for the Presidency, but it was due largely to the quick intuition of R. M. Corwine, a delegate-at-large from Ohio, that Mr. Lincoln was nominated. Mr. Corwine with John A. Gurley, Isaac R. Steese and Dr. Enos had been supporting Salmon P. Chase. Mr. Lincoln was Mr. Corwine's friend and second choice, and when the roll was called the latter saw by quick figuring that Mr. Lincoln only lacked $2\frac{1}{2}$ votes to have a majority. He got up, changed his vote to Lincoln and the others named followed suit, nominating the man who made the great Gettysburg speech. It is like reading history to talk with Lawyer Corwine, and some day he may write an interesting book.

SUGGESTED LINCOLN FOR PRESIDENT



O Colonel C. P. J. Arion of Chicago belongs the honor of having first suggested Abraham Lincoln as a presidential possibility.

The story of how this came about and the interesting incidents which cluster around the national republican convention of 1860 are recounted in a most entertaining way by the daughter of the colonel, Mrs. Helen Arion Lewis, who is now making her home in this city, 120 South Thirty-fourth street.

The Illinois state fair was held at Centennial in the fall of 1857. It was one of the first of its kind, and its popularity was established from the very start. Colonel Arion and his family decided to go, and invited a party of friends to accompany them. The president of the Illinois Central road placed his special car at their disposal, a kindness which was well appreciated when one takes into account the fact that the conveniences in traveling were extremely meager and limited in those days. It was many years before the advent of the palace sleeper, but this particular car was accommodated with berths built in one side and curtained off. At one end an open space was carpeted and furnished with chairs. Here a stove and plenty of fuel served to keep the chill off in the autumn evenings.

The members of the party had a jolly time of it, and, on arriving at their destination, decided that the berths were preferable to stuffy rooms in overcrowded hotels, so arranged to have their meals brought to them. The return trip was made at night.

MEETS MR. LINCOLN.

About 4 o'clock in the morning, Mrs. Lewis says, the conductor entered the coach, and, awakening her father, said that the coaches ahead were crowded, every seat being taken; that Mr. Abraham Lincoln, who was then stumping the state as candidate for the United States senate, begged permission to occupy a chair in the private car, as he was greatly fatigued.

Colonel Arion was very glad to grant the request, and when Mr. Lincoln appeared the meeting was such as one might expect between two Kentuckians.

It was that memorable campaign with Stephen A. Douglas, and the colonel had been watching with interest the part which the "Railsplitter" from Springfield was taking in the race. He had never had the pleasure of meeting the candidate before, but in the chat which followed he was impressed with the earnestness and sincerity of the man before him and the practical way in which he handled every subject presented.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

It was a rather cold morning, and together they built up a good fire in the box stove. Mr. Lincoln sat down with his back to the fire, and there they discussed the important questions of the day until Mrs. Arion, who had been aroused, dressed and joined the party. In describing Mr. Lincoln, Mrs. Arion said afterward that she was first impressed with "his angular points;" then she was struck with his rather rusty appearance, and the fact that he did not seem to have any place to put his hands. He was clad in tight-fitting black broadcloth trousers, very large and heavy boots, Prince Albert coat and silk hat. His long hair was very much

awry, his linen very much soiled and his black necktie carelessly tied. The expression of his face and the twinkles of his eyes were all the redeeming features that he seemed to have, but they betokened devotion to principle, combined with gentleness and charity for all mankind. When it came time, however, for Mr. Lincoln to leave the train he had created a very favorable impression, so much so that the opinion grew upon Colonel Arion that he was a man that could be trusted to meet any emergency.

PRESIDENTIAL TIMBER.

The next year politicians all over the country were discussing presidential timber. The southern states had been threatening secession, and a most perplexing and serious state of affairs seemed to confront the nation. Pennsylvania was a doubtful republican state, and the west generally felt that in the matter of candidates it had been ignored and snubbed. Colonel Arion was chairman of the Cook county republican committee, and in a conference with Dr. Charles V. Dyer, Judge Bell and others the situation was thoroughly canvassed. William H. Seward of New York had a large following, and the Empire state usually dictated matters in the convention. Hon. S. P. Chase of Ohio, Hon. Edward Bates of Missouri and Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania were also developing strength and eventually were proposed in the national convention some months later.

After discussing the matter for some time Colonel Arion suggested the name of Mr. Lincoln. The idea at first was thought lightly of, but the doughty colonel pushed his claim, and the upshot of the matter was that a Cameron and Lincoln club was started. Mrs. Lewis has in her possession the original articles of incorporation of the club. The fact was well advertised, and the ball set rolling, which resulted in many clubs of a similar nature being formed throughout the state of Illinois.

WIGWAM DECORATED.

Chicago had been decided on as the place for holding the next national republican convention, and the Wigwam, which seated several thousand people and located on the southeast corner of Market and Lake streets, as the place of meeting. The Wigwam was built of rough lumber, and elaborate preparations were made to decorate the interior with bunting. Peter Page was made chairman of the decorating committee. The auditorium was divided up and a married woman was placed in charge of each space. She interested the younger ladies of her acquaintance to sew strips of the different colored bunting together, and afterward they wound the pillars with it and festooned the ceiling, until hardly a vestige of the former gaunt appearance remained. The back of the platform was gayly decorated with flags. To accomplish this work properly entailed a large amount of time and expense. The committee was being constantly called on for funds, and when these were exhausted individual subscriptions were solicited. Mrs. Lewis was then only a very young girl, but on account of her father's prominence she was constantly in demand. One afternoon Mr. Page came to her in despair and begged her to call on her friends among the business men and beg more funds with which to carry on the work. She started out after some hesitancy and returned in half an hour with \$30. And

so little by little the work was accomplished. The young ladies who helped thought it no more than fair that they should be given seats on the platform, and Mrs. Lewis recalls with what chagrin they accepted the final decision of the committee and elbowed and squeezed their way through the crowds, which at all times occupied the body of the house.

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

The Arion mansion occupied a lot at the corner of Michigan avenue and Lake street. It was a three-story building, and during this exciting time was the rendezvous of all the prominent politicians of the country. How well she says she can remember leaders in the party telling her father how sorry they were to disappoint him, but his

candidate, Lincoln, could never hope to get the nomination. The colonel, however, never flinched. From morn to night and night to morning he kept hard at work, buttonholing every delegate and everlastingly talking for Lincoln. Wherever he went he always took his daughter, and Mrs. Lewis was as conversant in politics in those days as those of the sterner sex.

As an excuse for her appearance on many an occasion he would introduce her as the "only son I have," and so enabled her to make acquaintance with the great men of the country, whose friendship she had reason to be thankful for in after-life. The Tremont house, at the corner of Dearborn and Lake streets, was committee headquarters, and here was supposed to be formulated all plans which should after-

ward govern in the convention, but whatever program had been outlined was arranged without taking into consideration Mr. Lincoln's following.

THE WEDGE THAT SPLIT.

The evening before the gathering of that memorable assembly the Indiana and Pennsylvania delegations got together in the club rooms of the Lincoln and Cameron organization and caucused on a candidate. The Indiana men wanted to run Hon. H. S. Lane from their own state. Pennsylvania favored Cameron as first choice and Lincoln as second. Lane, who came very near being nominated in 1856 at Philadelphia as Bryan did in 1896 at Chicago, after thinking the matter over, decided that such a move would be disastrous to republican interests in his state. His friends had him slated for governor of Indiana, and it was generally admitted that he alone of all republicans could carry the state. He declined the honor, and the Indiana delegation decided to cast its vote solid for Lincoln. It was finally arranged also that the Pennsylvania delegation should cast a complimentary vote for Cameron, and then vote solid for the Illinois man. To this end Colonel Arion worked early and late, and on the eve of the convention the facts in the case

were allowed to reach the ear of other delegations. It was given out with telling effect, and resulted on the third day of the convention in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln. The man on the roof of the wigwam fired the signal gun, and Randolph street that evening was ablaze with lights and thronged with friends of the candidate, each carrying a fence rail. It did not take long for the popularity of the "unknown quantity," as he had been called by his opponents to spread from ocean to ocean.

Some of these facts, as related by Mrs. Lewis, are here published for the first time, and give additional light on a period and the history of a man which are both intensely interesting to every American citizen.

